

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2484

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

RELEASE OF GRANT AND SOFT LOANS TO SHIKARA AND BOAT OWNERS

Appadurai Shri M.

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

(a)whether the Government is providing Rs.20,000 as grant and Rs.30,000 as soft loans to Shikara owners and Ponywalas in Kashmir;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether the Government has any proposal to provide similar grant and soft loans to boat owners in Kanyakumari, Ooty, Kodaikanal and Pitchavaram in Tamil Nadu; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)(SMT.RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a Special Package for Creation of employment through Revival of Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. This Package has the following component:

1.Soft loans to Houseboat Owners to renovate their boats and make them functional. The amount of loan would vary between Rs.One lakh and Rs.Three lakhs depending on the type of the houseboat;

2.Soft loan of Rs.50,000 per room for renovating and refurbishing 50% of the rooms of A,B,C and D category hotels (Except 5-Star hotels);

3.Capital Grant of Rs.20,000 for repair and upgradation of Shikaras;

4.Onetime capital subsidy up to Rs.10,000 and soft loan up to Rs.30,000 per annum to ponywalas to buy new ponies.

(c):No, Sir.

(d):Does not arise.