

9.2 TOURISM

39. Tourism is an important segment of our economy especially in terms of its contribution towards foreign exchange earnings, generation of additional income and creation of employment opportunities, particularly, in remote and backward areas. The foreign exchange earnings due to tourism during 1999-2000 are estimated at Rs.13238.78 crore compared to Rs.12137.54 crore in 1998-99. The direct employment in the sector during 1998-99 was about 14.79 million persons.

40. The foreign tourist arrivals in India are estimated to have increased from 2397457 in 1998-99 to 2516790 in 1999-2000. The share of India in world tourist arrivals is only approximately 0.39 per cent. This shows that much of our tourist potential is yet to be tapped.

41. In 1999-2000, against the budgeted outlay of Rs.230.50 crore for tourism in the Central Sector, the Revised Estimates is Rs.145.00 crore. The bulk of the expenditure under Tourism in the Central Sector is for the schemes of Ministry of Tourism (MOT). The entire Plan outlay of the Ministry of Tourism except for the schemes of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) is funded from budgetary resources. ITDC finances its Plan from internal and extra-budgetary resources.

42. The Central Sector outlay for tourism in 2000-01 is Rs.195.00 crore. Tourist Information and Publicity, overseas and inside the country, continues to receive the largest share of the Plan outlay of the Ministry of Tourism for which an outlay of Rs.56.75 crore has been provided in the Annual Plan 2000-01. An outlay of Rs.49.75 crore out of above provision has been kept for overseas campaigns during the year. Ministry of Tourism performs the main marketing function through a network of 18 Government of India Tourist Offices located overseas with specific area demarcations under six distinct regions. Ministry of Tourism is conducting a study to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the overseas publicity.

43. Another major scheme is Tourist Infrastructure for which a provision of Rs.29.10 crore has been made. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country. The Central Government investment under the scheme is channelised on a cost-sharing basis through the State/UT Governments. The specific schemes for which assistance is provided are Tourist Complexes/Tourist Lodges, wayside amenities, Motels/Cafeterias/Restaurants, Tourist Reception Centres, Pilgrim Sheds/dormitories etc. at the Pilgrim Centres and public conveniences.

44. An outlay of Rs.16.65 crore has been provided in the Annual Plan 2000-01 for the schemes of Human Resource Development in the sector. The existing facilities covered in the scheme include 21 Institutes of Hotel Management & Catering Technology and 14 Food Craft Institutes under the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management and the training of officers and guides. An outlay of Rs.9.10 crore has been provided for the Institutes of Hotel Management & Catering Technology (IHMs) and Food Craft Institutes (FCIs). The Central Government funds the IHMs through release of grants to cover their net revenue expenditure and capital expenditure for purchase of equipment etc. and construction of the Institute building. In case of FCIs, the financial responsibility of the Central Government gets

Chapter 9: Environment, Forests and Tourism

transferred to the State Governments after first five years of operation of the institutes. The Ministry is making efforts at making the IHMs and FCIs financially self-supported.

45. The outlay for ITDC in the Annual Plan 2000-01 is Rs.60.00 crore. A provision of Rs.30.00 crore has been made for renovation/improvement in existing hotels of ITDC during the year. An outlay of Rs.15.50 crore has been kept for schemes of Reconstruction of Lodhi Hotel and the construction of a hotel at Chandigarh. The Plan of ITDC during the year is proposed to be financed from internal resources of Rs.15 crore and extra-budgetary resources (loan from financial institutions/public) of Rs.45.00 crore.

46. The scheme-wise details of outlay and expenditure of Ministry of Tourism and ITDC are given at the Annexure 9.2.1.

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECT

47. Ministry of Tourism is a coordinating nodal agency in respect of the externally aided project of Development of Buddhist Centres funded by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan. The concerned State Governments are implementing the project and claiming the reimbursement from OECF directly as per loan conditions. Ministry of Tourism is, however, providing for Consultancy Services in its budget which is also reimbursed by OECF. A provision of Rs.25 lakh has been made in the Annual Plan 2000-01 of the Ministry of tourism toward the professional services.