

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2098
ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018**

DEVELOPMENT OF ARAKU AS SPECIAL CIRCUIT

**2098. SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any Detailed Project Report (DPR) to develop Araku as special circuit and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;**
- (b) whether the Government has held International Hot Air Balloon festival in Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh (AP);**
- (c) if so, the details of the programmes held like hot air ballooning, para mounting, camp stay, etc. and response received from tourists and the steps being taken by the Union and State Government to organise similar festivals in other States;**
- (d) the involvement of tribals in such hot air balloon festivals and response of the tourists from various countries received during the event; and**
- (e) whether the Government of AP also held Visakha Utsav in Visakhapatnam and also Balotsav programme in Guntur district and also propose to hold Frinze festival in December, 2017 and Mach festival in February 2018 and cooking Olympiad during Sanskranti/Pongal festival in 2018 and if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance being provided by the Government for each programme?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)**

(a) to (e): The Ministry has not received any proposal for development Araku as special circuit from State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Government of Andhra Pradesh had organised Araku Balloon Festival in Araku from 14th to 17th December 2017. The festival was attended by 17 hot air balloon pilots from 13 countries & 37 journalists from India and overseas. During the festival the guests were taken for tour to tribal villages to give them first-hand experience of tribal culture.

The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territories for organising Fairs and Festivals. These fairs and festivals are generally identified in consultation with the State Government/UT and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. However, Ministry has not received any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting for CFA for organising Fairs and Festivals during Financial Year 2017-18.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they are organising Vishka Utsav in Visakhapatnam from 28th to 30th December 2017. For Frinze and Cooking Olympiad festivals, dates are not yet finalized and there is no proposal for organising Balotsav and Mach festival.
