

(ग) क्या सरकार पुष्कर में पर्यटकों के लिए “यात्रिका” का निर्माण करने का विचार रखती है

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग) : (क) पुष्कर, भारत के महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थकेन्द्रों में से एक है। पर्यटक मंत्रालय ने वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान कर दी है और पुष्कर में एक पर्यटक परिसर और आवास के लिए स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है।

(ख) और (ग) जी, नहीं,। इस तरह का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Revenue earned by Tourism Industry

881. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by Indian tourism industry from Indian and foreign tourist during last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have identified some places for developing them as tourists centres during the last one year, if so, the names of places identified, so far state-wise;

(c) whether Government have received certain proposals/names of places from the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of places identified for tourism in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is Rs. 293.23 crores and Rs. 277.91 crores respectively.

(b) to (d) The identification and development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of state/UT Governments. However, proposals are received from time to time for the inclusion of certain tourist centres in the circuits identified for intensive development. Such proposals were received from the State Governments of Kerala, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during 1997-98.

The circuit consisting of Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang was included during 1997-98 in the circuits for intensive development. All the centres in the circuit are in North East.

Foreign Tourists

882. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1997-98, Countries-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether Government have proposed any action plan to meet the target of five million tourists by the turn of the century; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The estimated of foreign tourists who visited India from major source markets during 1997-98 were as follows:—

Country	Estimated Foreign Tourist Arrivals
U.K.	370082
Bangladesh	354906
U.S.A.	243919
Srilanka	121920
Germany	105840
Japan	99598
France	91303
Canada	78467
Malaysia	60322
Italy	53783
Singapore	51936
Australia	50581
Pakistan	45017
Netherland	44784
Nepal	43098
Switzerland	31675
Spain	22873
Others	500881
TOTAL	2370985

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1997-98 was Rs. 11263.88 crores.

(c) and (d) An Action Plan consisting of integrated infrastructure development including airports, air services, railway services, roads and road services, accommodation units, restaurants, etc., product development, human resource development and enhanced marketing efforts was prepared in 1993 for attracting five

million foreign tourists. However, the working group for the Ninth Five Year Plan reviewed the target and an 8% growth in tourist arrivals is considered feasible during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

Tourism in Rajasthan

883. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH. Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to make tourism more attractive, comfortable and cheap in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and the availability of funds. During last three years, the Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 415.00 lakhs to Rajasthan for the implementation of various tourism projects in the State.

Attracting Tourists to India

884. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI; Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps recently taken/initiated/contemplated to "sell" India to international tourists; and

(b) what has been the share of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam as recipient States in the proposed dispensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Various steps have been taken by the Central Government to position India as an attractive destination in the niche markets by way of participating in fairs, advertising in Electronic and Print Media, organising of seminars, brochure support to travel trade, direct mailing, India Evenings, etc.

The Tourism products of the State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam form an integral part of the overseas marketing plans.

World Tourism Organisation

885. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide the World Tourism Organisation a platform for consultancy in tourism development;

(b) whether there are no experts in the country who are competent to deal with tourism;

(c) whether Government are aware that sex tourism and child prostitution are very much on the agenda of Western tourist organisations; and

(d) what legal/administrative measures Government propose to make our laws more stringent and effective to prevent such misuse of our hospitality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) World Tourism Organisation (WTO) is an International Agency and a part of the UN System. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism know-how. In its capacity as the World Forum for tourism issues, it provides consultancy to various countries including India.

(b) There are several experts in the country who are competent to deal with tourism.

(c) The WTO has set up a Task Force on this issue.

(d) The existing laws of the country also deal with the crimes committed in the hospitality industry.

Safe pilgrimage to Amarnath, Badrinath and Kedarnath

866. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to make pilgrimage to Amarnath cave in Jammu and Kashmir and to Badrinath and Kedarnath in Uttar Pradesh, safe and smooth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?