

[25 July, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) Promotion of tourism is a continuous process. The Government is promoting foreign as well as domestic tourism in the country including Pondicherry through its 18 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participation in travel fairs, inviting media, and Travel Agents on familiarization trips, extensive use of Information Technology in tourism promotion etc. Domestic tourism is encouraged through 21 domestic offices within India.

Maintenance and Management of Taj Mahal by a Private Company

†448. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of maintenance and management of the historical Taj Mahal has been entrusted to a private company; if so, whether the Archaeological Survey of India was unable to maintain it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of agreement entered into with the company and amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Hotels Company Ltd. have signed a MoU with the National Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India to provide financial assistance towards conservation, environment development and improvement of tourist related amenities at the Taj Mahal, Agra. All conservation measures identified under the MoU will be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India alone.

The creation of tourist related facilities and improvement of the environment will be promoted directly by the donor under strict terms and conditions laid down by the Archaeological Survey of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In the first phase of the project Rs. 1.87 crores has been earmarked for conservation, chemical preservation and beautification of the Taj Mahal.

Foreign exchange earned through Tourism

†449. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of foreign exchange earned through tourism during the last three years;

(b) whether Government is making efforts to include tourism industry in any schedule of the constitution; and

(c) if so, details in this regard and by when it is targeted to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Foreign Exchange earning (Rs. in crores)
1998	12150
1999	12951
2000	14475

(b) and (c) State Governments/Union Territories and the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been requested to send their views on the proposal for inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.