

Statement

Details of projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during the last five years for Hyderabad, Tirupati and Ajmer

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	City	Projects	Sanctioned Amount
1.	2004-05	Hyderabad	Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex- Feasibility report	5.00
2.	-do-		Integrated Development of tourism circuit Hyderabad-Nalgonda-Khammam	797.47
3.	-do-		Setting up of Taramati Baradari Cultural Complex	62.50
4.	2005-06		Destination Development of Night Bazaar, Shilparamam	500.00
5.	-do-		Celebration of Hyderabad Carnival and Kalinga festival	20.00
6.	2006-07		Development of Golconda Qutub Shahi Tomb-Hakimpet-Shaikpet Sarai-K.B. Museum-Premavathi Mosque circuit	500.00
7.	2007-08		Development of Charminar Area	994.75
8.	2008-09	Tirupati	Development of Heritage Circuit at Tirupati as a mega circuit	4652.49
9.	2007-08	Ajmer	Development of floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan including Ajmer	800.00
10.	2008-09		Development of Ajmer-Pushkar as mega project	1069.68

Crunch in tourism sector

2987. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tourism sector in the country is at present facing serious crunch;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the major steps Government has taken to boost this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during January-June,

2009 declined by 9.3% over the corresponding figure of January-June 2008. This decline in FTAs may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(c) To give a boost to the tourism sector, the Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

Further, the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical, Convention and Conference and Domestic Tourism in the country.

Development of tourist places in Himachal Pradesh

2988. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists who arrived in the country during the year 2008-09;
- (b) the States where maximum number of foreign tourists visited during the year 2008-09 and the earnings from them to Government exchequer during the said period;
- (c) whether there are many places in Himachal Pradesh (HP) which could be developed as tourist destinations;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to allocate funds to the State Government to develop those places as tourist destinations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and by when the funds are likely to be allocated and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2008 and January-June, 2009 are 5.37 million and 2.47 million respectively.

(b) The top 5 States/UTs in India in terms of foreign tourist visits in 2008 are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Ministry of Tourism does not compile State-wise estimates of earnings from tourism. However, the estimated foreign exchange earning from tourism in India during 2008 and January-June, 2009 are US \$ 11747 million and US \$ 5007 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Identification and development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central