

Scheme drafted for security of tourists

3796. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the safety and security of tourists, her Ministry has sent a scheme for setting up of tourist facilitation and security organizations in various States to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme drafted by her Ministry and sent to the Planning Commission for approval;

(c) whether the safety and security of tourists, particularly foreign tourists, is at stake in the absence of any dedicated security force; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken in the past few months to provide safety to tourists, particularly at popular tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Safety and security of tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. In order to ensure safety and security of tourists, Ministry of Tourism has, however, advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/UTs. Some States have deployed tourism police, in some form or the other.

In addition, based on deliberations with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the Ministry of Tourism had drafted a scheme of Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for setting up of Tourists Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) comprising primarily, Ex-Servicemen, for providing safety & security to tourists and forwarded the same to the Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval.

Development of Vaishali as tourist spot

3797. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to develop Vaishali as a tourist spot to attract more tourist there and earn revenue as well;

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Bihar State Government has also submitted any such proposal; and