

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following tourism projects in Vaishali in Bihar in the 10th and 11th plan:

(Rs. in crore)		
Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
10th plan		
1.	Improvement of Abhishek Pushkarni at Vaishali (2002-03)	0.75
2.	Construction of different projects at Vaishali under the Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda project (2005-06)	1.17
11th plan		
1.	Development of Vaishali (Kolhua) (2008-09)	3.89

Travel advisories in view of terror attacks

3798. PROF. ALKA BALARAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent terror attacks by Maoists and terrorists in several parts of the country, a large number of foreign countries have issued travel advisories to their citizens to restrict visiting India;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the terrorists and Maoists attacks have directly affected the growth of tourism sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to promote the growth of tourism sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) Various Countries issue travel advisories from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take precautions while traveling to areas in the country which are temporarily disturbed. The