

Country/Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005*
Canada	15237	10720	22221	33731	52873
USA	41768	27873	41684	68535	105074
Germany	47761	30920	50006	71978	94056
Australia	24611	15830	23840	41090	61921
Switzerland	17147	20397	17211	29320	45662
Japan	29654	12564	18794	24811	29979
Sri Lanka	701	1439	2023	3263	311
Othes	233321	186499	256209	408638	366854
TOTAL :	608283	428437	628560	971772	1131164

* Provisional

Tea tourism in Darjeeling

837. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to expand tea tourism in Darjeeling;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

(b) An amount of Rs. 388.98 lakh has been sanctioned during the year 2006-07 in the first phase for the Development of Tea Tourism Circuit in North Bengal under scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits. The sanctioned project includes internal pathways, car parking, paved area, landscaping, water supply system, water purification system, waste disposal system, lighting and illumination system, boundary wall and signages etc. at identified tea gardens.

(c) Does not arise.

Maintenance of Raja seat, a historical site in Mercera (Coorg)

838. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of Raja Seat, a historical site in Mercera town in Karnataka;

(b) whether State Government is releasing only Rs. 5000 per year for its maintenance of an area spread over 18.55 acres;

(c) whether an extent of 1.10 acre has been encroached by the 32 families to build houses;

(d) if so, whether Government are interested in removing the unauthorized encroachers from the Raja Seat; and

(e) whether there is any proposal with Government to improve it as a tourist spot as it is the district from where Field Marshall K.M. Cariyappa, and Gen. Thimmaiah hailed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Removal of encroachment does not fall under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Tourism. Maintenance and upkeep of places of tourist interest is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

(e) A project proposal for destination development of Coorg in Karnataka has been sanctioned on 13.11.2003 with a total cost of Rs. 483.07 lakh. It also included the following components: