

Tourist guide in the country

2768. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate number of tourist guides are available in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the tourist guides, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government intends to encourage the SC/ST category candidates to pursue career as Tourist Guide; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) Induction of Regional Level Tourist Guides is an ongoing process and this is done once in two years based on tourist traffic and travel trends.

- (b) The details of Regional Level Tourist Guides region-wise are as follows:

North	:	2061
West	:	347
South	:	243
East	:	133
North East	:	2
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TOTAL	:	2786

(c) and (d) The guidelines for the induction of Regional Level Guides do not envisage reservation for any category as it is a freelance profession and there are no posts or vacancies.

Special tourism status to Haryana

2769. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to accord special status to Haryana as tourist destination;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the likely benefit/facilities extended to State of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism does not have any scheme to accord special status to any State as tourist destination.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Funds for Kakatiya Festival in Andhra Pradesh

2770. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated funds to the Kakatiya festival of Warangal district on the occasion of completion of 150 years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent by Government for the Kakatiya festival in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (b) Development and promotion of tourism destinations/products and conduct of various fairs/festivals/events are primarily the responsibilities of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for various tourism projects identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se*-priority and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism on 03.12.2012 has sanctioned a Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 25.00 lakh to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for Celebrating the Kakatiya festival in Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh.

Development of pilgrim areas as tourist destination

2771. SHRIMATI T. RATNABAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified the pilgrim areas like Tirupati, Shirdi