

(b) Protection and promotion of tourism industry is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. In the event of any disease, epidemic, natural disaster or terrorist activities etc which affects domestic/foreign tourists in the country, Ministry of Tourism takes up the matter with concerned Ministry and the State Government for remedial measures.

Cleanliness in tourist destinations

904. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing complaints by foreign tourists about cleanliness in major tourist destinations in the country, if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps;

(b) whether the Union Government has coordinated with the State Governments to maintain cleanliness and regulation on reckless and unauthorized constructions in the main tourist destinations, if so, the details and response thereof, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) whether Government proposes to undertake any study about the present state-of-affairs and the level of cleanliness of the tourist destinations in the country, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that lack of hygiene and cleanliness at tourist destinations is a major concern for domestic as well as foreign tourists. Recognizing its importance, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched Campaign Clean India in June, 2012 to bring about an acceptable level of cleanliness at important tourist destinations.

(b) Development of tourism infrastructure including upkeep and maintenance is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, MOT provides Central Financial Assistance for various tourism projects prioritized every year in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Regulation of reckless and unauthorized construction does not fall under the purview of this Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has initiated a process for conducting study on development of cleanliness index for 35 cities important for tourist visits.