

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned CFA of ₹ 42.84 crore during 11th Five Year Plan and ₹ 116.10 crore during 12th Plan (2012-13 & 2013-14) for development of tourism infrastructure in the State of Bihar.

Development of Tourism Circuits

†2286. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the budget of year 2014-15, an announcement has been made regarding the development of five tourism circuits in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Madhya Pradesh's tourism centres have also been given place in the proposed tourism circuit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. For development of 5 tourism circuits around specific themes in the country an amount of ₹ 500.00 crore has been proposed in the budget for the year 2014-15. The Ministry of Tourism is formulating the new scheme guidelines including identification of circuits in the country.

Countering Negative Publicity of India in International Media

2287. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Travel and Tourism Council, India has, submitted a report to the Ministry regarding the immense negative publicity from the international media on frequently occurring incidents of rape/molestation against women foreign tourists and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the strategy to counter safety threats and negative publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The World Travel and Tourism Council, India in its report 'Tourism Action Plan Unleashing India's Potential' has included a section on Safety and Security and has suggested measures to counter safety and security threats and negative publicity.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/Union Territories. The State Governments/UT administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

The measures taken by the Ministry of Tourism towards safety and security of domestic and foreign tourists including women travellers are:

- (1) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) on a pilot basis.
- (2) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Honorable Tourism which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to the basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.
- (3) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been requested to take immediate effective steps for ensuring conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity.
- (4) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving international tourists, Ministry of Tourism has posted an advisory on its website: www.incredibleindia.org.
- (5) The Safety and Security of Tourists was the focus of the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held on 18th July, 2013. Regarding safety of tourists, the following resolutions were adopted during the conference:
 - (i) The Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women.
 - (ii) The Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will consider setting up of a special force such as a Tourist Police, where it does not exist at present, either by taking few companies on deputation from the Police Department or by engaging Ex-Servicemen or Home Guards.

(iii) The Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will run a mass awareness campaign called “I respect women”.

(6) Recognising the need to sensitise the masses and the stakeholders of the tourism industry to the traditional Indian values of the concept ‘Atithidevo Bhava’, the Ministry of Tourism also runs Social Awareness Campaigns on leading television channels in the country on themes related to, *inter-alia*, behavior towards tourists.

Tourism Projects in Karnataka

2288. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tourism projects sanctioned during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan for Karnataka;
- (b) how many of these have so far been completed;
- (c) the projects which are yet to be completed; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of various tourism destinations & products and implementation of various tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments & Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them for each Financial year, subject to availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The details of tourism projects for which CFA was sanctioned and released to the, State Government of Karnataka during the Tenth Five Year Plan and Eleventh Five Year Plan alongwith their present status of implementation are given in Statement.