

(vi) **Restriction on gap for re-entry lifted:**

The restriction of two-month gap on re-entry of foreign nationals coming to India on Tourist Visa and Tourist Visa on Arrival has been lifted with effect from 4th December, 2012.

Assistance to promote tourism and culture in Odisha

1996. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level delegation of Odisha Government has held meeting with the Union Minister and requested for assistance to promote tourism and culture in the State;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of projects for which assistance has been sought by the said delegation; and

(d) the details of the reaction of the Union Government on such projects along with the action so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Yes, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Government of Odisha, Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, had met the Union Tourism Minister and requested for release of balance funds for projects which had been sanctioned from 2004-05 to 2008-09. He had also requested that projects may be prioritised for the year 2015-16.

The release of funds and prioritisation of projects pertain to the Product/Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuits (PIDDC) Scheme. No allocation has been made in the Union Budget for states under this scheme. Hence, the funds cannot be released nor can the projects be prioritised.

Revenue earned from foreign tourists

1997. PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists have increased in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of foreign tourists who visited India in 2014-15;

(c) the State-wise details of revenue earned from foreign tourists in 2014-15;

(d) the revenue earned from such tourists who visited the archaeological sites, historical monuments and museums of the country; and

(e) the details of steps undertaken by Government to upgrade the ambience of existing archaeological sites, historical monuments, museums and establish new museums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2014-15 were 7.77 million (Provisional). The number of Foreign Tourist Visits (which is different from FTAs) to different States/UTs during 2013 is given in the Statement (*See below*). This information is not available for the year 2014 and 2015.

(c) The Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through Tourism in India during 2014-15 were ₹ 1,20,646 crore (Provisional). Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data of FEEs through tourism for States/UTs.

(d) The revenue earned through sale of entry tickets to foreign tourists at centrally protected monuments during 2013-14 and 2014-15 is as under:

Year	Revenue Earned (in ₹)
2013-14	60,94,75,775
2014-15	52,24,11,915

(e) For the Centrally protected monuments steps have been taken by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to upgrade tourist amenities like drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for differently abled, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, benches, dustbin, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc. at all the centrally protected monuments/sites as per need and availability of resources.

ASI has designated 25 monuments as 'Adarsh Smarak' where the facilities like Audio Visual Centre, Documentary films, Wi-Fi, Signages, Brail, Waste disposal are being provided.

The upgradation of the ambience of the archaeological sites, historical monuments, and museums which are owned by the States/UTs is primarily the responsibility of the Archaeology Departments of the State/UT.

The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to Central Agencies and States/UTs for development and promotion of tourism including upgrading the ambience of monuments and providing better facilities to the tourists.

Further, improvement and upgradation of these public amenities is a continuous process.

Statement

State/UT-wise number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) during 2013

Sl. No.	State/UT	FTVs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14742
2.	Andhra Pradesh	223518
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10846
4.	Assam	17638
5.	Bihar	765835
6.	Chandigarh	40124
7.	Chhattisgarh	3886
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1582
9.	Daman and Diu	4814
10.	Delhi	2301395
11.	Goa	492322
12.	Gujarat	198773
13.	Haryana	228200
14.	Himachal Pradesh	414249
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	60845
16.	Jharkhand	45995
17.	Karnataka	636378
18.	Kerala	858143
19.	Lakshadweep	371
20.	Madhya Pradesh	280333
21.	Maharashtra	4156343
22.	Manipur	1908
23.	Meghalaya	6773
24.	Mizoram	800
25.	Nagaland	3304
26.	Odisha	66675

Sl. No.	State/UT	FTVs
27.	Puducherry	42624
28.	Punjab	204074
29.	Rajasthan	1437162
30.	Sikkim	31698
31.	Tamil Nadu	3990490
32.	Tripura	11853
33.	Uttar Pradesh	2054420
34.	Uttarakhand	97683
35.	West Bengal	1245230
TOTAL		19951026

Development of Tourism Circuits in Andhra Pradesh

1998. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects and Tourism Circuits have been identified for tourism development in view of resource crunch in Andhra Pradesh following bifurcation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how the tourism industry would be developed in the State which has a lot of potential in the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has launched two new schemes (i) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Circuits around specific themes and (ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Andhra Pradesh is part of Coastal Circuit, which one of the five circuits identified under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. One project namely "Development of Kakinada-Hope Island-Konaseema as World class coastal and Eco Tourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme" has already been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during the year 2014-15 for Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of ₹ 6983.05 lakh.

Under PRASAD, the pilgrimage city "Amaravati" of Andhra Pradesh is one of the 12 cities identified for development.