

- (ix) Wildlife Circuit
- (x) Rural Circuit
- (xi) Spiritual Circuit
- (xii) Ramayana Circuit

Under PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.

The PRASAD Scheme guidelines envisage the integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a planned, prioritized and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience to both domestic and foreign tourists.

Both the scheme guidelines provide for suitable public private partnership as well as the voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Corporate Sector for various tourist destinations.

(d) The year-wise Foreign Exchange Earning (FEE) from the Foreign Tourists during the last five years is given below:

Parameter	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Foreign Exchange Earnings through Tourism (₹ in crore)	64889*	77591*	94487*	107671*	123320*

\*Estimated

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

#### Signing of pacts by BRICS nations to stimulate trade in their local currencies

161. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
KUMARI SELJA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) nations have recently signed pacts to stimulate trade in their local currencies and agreed on a joint working group to set up a development bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the importers-exporters on such pacts; and

(c) whether trade between BRICS nations is likely to improve in the coming years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The five member development banks of BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism signed an umbrella non-binding “Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currencies” during the 4th BRICS Summit held in March, 2012 in New Delhi. For India, the Interbank Cooperation Mechanism was signed by the Export Import Bank of India which is the nominated Member. Moreover, there are references to the use of national currencies in trade in the declaration of the 7th BRICS Summit held on 8-9 July, 2015 in Ufa, Russia. The Inter-Governmental Agreement for the establishment of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) was signed by the representatives from the BRICS countries during the 6th BRICS Summit held on 15 July, 2014 in Fortaleza, Brazil. The New Development Bank will mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, in order to supplement the existing efforts of the multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development. The New Development Bank has come into existence after the ratification of the Agreement by all the Members countries.

(c) Some of the trade related measures outlined under “*Intra BRICS cooperation*” in the 5th BRICS Trade Ministers Joint Communique signed on 7 July, 2015 in Moscow, Russia are exchange of best practices on investment climate improvement; exchange experiences on risk analysis among export credit and guarantee agencies; explore measures aimed at increasing trade in value added goods; strengthening cooperation in standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, customs cooperation, e-commerce and intellectual property; identifying promising areas of cooperation among BRICS Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) including exchanging information and best practices on MSME regulation and support, facilitation of MSME’s access to public services, financing, exports and international projects. These measures are expected to strengthen economic ties and improve trade among the BRICS nations.