

Setting up of national tourism board

1264. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth registered in tourism sector during the last two years is substantially lower than estimated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Tourism Board to speed up and promote tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The growth registered in the final figures of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during last two years was better than the provisional estimates of FTAs. The provisional estimates and final figures of FTAs in India along with the growth rates over previous year is given below:

Year	2013	2014
Provisional FTAs (in millions)	6.85	7.46
Growth rate (%)	4.1	7.1
Final FTAs (in millions)	6.97	7.68
Growth rate (%)	5.9	10.2

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism is currently in the process of formulating a National Tourism Policy 2015 with the aim of positioning India as a “Must Experience” and “Must Revisit” destination for global travellers, encouraging Indians to explore their own country and realising the potential of tourism as a major engine for economic growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation in a responsible framework. During the consultation process with stake holders for getting input for the policy, one of the suggestions received for the Policy includes the setting up of a National Tourism Authority/Board.

Funds to develop new tourist spots

†1265. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States provided with funds to develop their respective tourist spots in financial year 2014-15 and 2015- 16, so far;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry has received requests from States to declare new tourist spots as tourist circuit;

(c) if so, the details of States from which requests have been received;

(d) whether Government will accept requests of the States and provide funds to develop tourist spots in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The list of projects and amount sanctioned to various States/UTs in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is focussing on integrated development of tourist circuits and destinations in the country. Following two new schemes have been launched in 2014-15 for this purpose:

(i) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.

Under Swadesh Darshan, integrated development of theme based circuits is taken up in order to provide engaging and complete tourism experience to both domestic and foreign tourists.

Twelve theme based circuits *i.e.* North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under "Swadesh Darshan".

(ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.

Under the PRASAD Scheme, integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations is taken up in a planned, prioritized and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience to the tourists.

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

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism

projects subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

Statement

*List of Projects and amounts sanctioned to various States/UTs
in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16*

(₹ in lakh)			
Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	9515.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	8455.35
3.	Assam	3	3568.11
4.	Bihar	3	4220.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	990.13
6.	Daman and Diu	1	775.54
7.	Goa	1	879.04
8.	Haryana	3	121.66
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	732.50
10.	Karnataka	1	5000.00
11.	Manipur	7	14752.51
12.	Mizoram	3	4879.69
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	3690.54
14.	Nagaland	10	5980.20
15.	Odisha	3	6488.34
16.	Punjab	3	4831.98
17.	Rajasthan	2	149.93
18.	Sikkim	8	5200.00
19.	Telangana	4	504.36
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4	3368.05
21.	Uttarakhand	1	391.69
GRAND TOTAL		88	84495.62

Notes: Includes Projects relating to Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Human Resource Development (HRD), Fairs and Festivals and Rural Tourism 2014-15

*The list of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan
during 2014-15 and 2015-16 (till 30.11.2015)*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Circuit	State	Name of Project	Year	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Coastal Circuit	Andhra Pradesh	Development of Kakinada Hope Island Konaseema as World class coastal and Eco Tourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh	2014-15	69.83
2.	North-East India Circuit	Arunachal Pradesh	Bhalukpong-Bomdila-Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh	2014-15	50.00
3.	Buddhist Circuit	Bihar	Cultural Centre, Bodhgaya	2014-15	33.17
4.	North-East India Circuit	Manipur	Development of Tourist Circuit in Manipur: Imphal-Moirang-Khongjom-Moreh	2015-16	89.66
5.	North-East India Circuit	Sikkim	Development of Tourist Circuit linking - Rangpo (entry) - Rorathang - Aritar - Phadamchen - Nathang - Sherathang - Tsongmo - Gangtok - Phodong - Mangan - Lachung - Yumthang - Lachen - Thangu - Gurudongmer - Mangan - Gangtok - Tumin Lingee - Singtam (exit) in Sikkim	2015-16	98.05
6.	Eco Circuit	Uttarakhand	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, Associated Tourism related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake and Surroundings as New Destination-District Tehri, Uttarakhand	2015-16	80.37

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Desert Circuit	Rajasthan	Development of Sambhar Lake Town and Other Destinations under Desert Circuit in Swadesh Darshan Scheme	2015-16	63.96
8.	Tribal Circuit	Nagaland	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren - Kohima - Wokha, Nagaland	2015-16	97.36
TOTAL					582.40

The State-wise details of the funds sanctioned under PRASAD Scheme during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 (till 02.12.2015)

(₹ in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State and Project	Year	Amount Sanctioned
Bihar			
1.	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar	2014-15	4.29
Uttar Pradesh			
2.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	14.93
3.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura	2014-15	9.36
Odisha			
4.	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham-Ramachandi-Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit	2014-15	50.00
Punjab			
5.	Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar	2015-16	6.45
Rajasthan			
6.	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	2015-16	40.44

Sl.No.	Name of the State and Project	Year	Amount Sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh			
7.	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh as Tourist Destination	2015-16	28.36
Assam			
8.	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	2015-16	33.98
GRAND TOTAL			187.81

Hospitality Development and Promotion Board

1266. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Hospitality Development and Promotion Board (HDPB);

(b) by when Government plans to set up HDPBs in every State;

(c) the states in which the HDPB has been set up so far, along with details thereof regarding the progress thus far; and

(d) the State-wise details of the funds allocated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Hospitality Development and Promotion Board (HDPB) was created in the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India *vide* Notification issued on 21.01.2011.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has no plan to set up HDPB in every State/Union Territories. However, all State Government and Union Territories have been advised to set up similar Boards in their respective State/Union Territories.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has not allocated any fund in this regard.

Promotion of remote villages and small and medium towns as tourist spots

1267. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make remote villages and small and medium towns as spots of tourist attraction;