

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Promotion and assessment of tourism potential is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Jharkhand. Central Financial Assistance is provided for tourism projects in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

The State of Jharkhand has submitted a proposal - "Development of Eco Circuit - Jamshedpur- Ranchi- Hazaribagh" under the Eco-Circuit theme of 'Swadesh Darshan scheme'.

Formation of Himalayan Tourist Circuit

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has decided to form a Himalayan Tourist Circuit;
- (b) if so, whether the places to be connected under this circuit have been finalized;
- (c) if so, the names of places of Uttarakhand State to be included under this circuit; and
- (d) if not, by when they are expected to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) For the integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme in the year 2014-15. The Himalayan circuit has been identified as one of the thematic circuits for development under the scheme.

The Himalayan Circuit covers States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the North-East region.

Domestic and foreign tourists visited Gujarat

778. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise number of domestic and foreign tourist visited Gujarat in the past five years, including the current year;
- (b) the scheme-wise and year-wise details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the Gujarat Government for the development of tourism during the said period; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the year-wise details on foreign exchange earnings from tourism in Gujarat during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV's) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV's) during 2011-2015 are as below:

Year	DTV's	FTV's
2011	2,10,17,478	1,66,042
2012	2,43,79,023	1,74,150
2013	2,74,12,517	1,98,773
2014	3,09,12,043	2,35,524
2015	3,62,88,463	2,84,973

(b) Development and promotion of tourism products and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/ Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for various tourism projects identified in consultation with them for each financial year subject to availability of funds, receipt of Detailed Project Report (DPR), liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines. The details of projects and amount sanctioned to the State of Gujarat under the Product Infrastructure for Development of Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) scheme during 2011-12 to 2015-16 are given below:

(₹ in lakh)

Year	Project Name	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	UC Pendency
2011-12	Integrated Development of Shuklatirth-Kabirvad-Mangleswar and Angareshwar as a Mega Circuit	4650.97	2325.48	2325.48
2011-12	Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit covering three destination-Devni Mori of District Sabarkantha-Taranga and Vadnagar of District Mehsana in Gujarat	523.90	419.12	419.12
2012-13	Integrated Development of (1) Temple at Yahmogi at Devmoga, (2) Malsamot Hill Station and (3) Niani Water Falls as Tourist Circuit, District Narmada, Gujarat.	486.75	389.40	389.40

While taking cognizance of the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission regarding higher devolution of 42% to States from Union's Taxes and Duties during its award period 2015-2020, the Ministry of Finance has delinked the PIDDC scheme for States from Union support. During the year 2015-16, no funds have been allocated for States including Gujarat under the existing PIDDC scheme.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched two new plan schemes "Swadesh Darshan" in 2014-15 for Integrated Development of Circuits around specific themes and "PRASAD" for National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 13 circuits have been identified *viz.* Coastal, Buddhist, North East India, Himalayan, Krishna, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Tribal, Eco Tourism, Wild Life, Rural and Heritage circuit. Under "PRASAD" Scheme 13 cities have been identified. "Dwarka" in Gujarat is identified under this Scheme. The State Governments can forward viable projects under these Schemes.

(c) Ministry of Tourism does not compile State/Union Territory - wise Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism. However, the provisional FEEs through tourism for the country as whole during 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were ₹ 77,591 crore, ₹ 94,487 crore, ₹ 1,07,671 crore, ₹ 1,23,320 crore, and ₹ 1,35,193 crore, respectively.

Foreign tourist arrivals in the country

779. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of foreign tourists who visited the country during the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;

(b) the total earnings of tourism sector during these years; and

(c) what was the share of earnings from foreign tourists during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The State/Union Territory - wise number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) during 2012, 2013 and 2014 is given in Statement (*See* below). This information is not available for the year 2015.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism compiles the data of foreign exchange earned through foreign tourists. The Ministry does not compile the data of earnings through domestic tourists. The Foreign Exchange Earnings (provisional) through tourism in India during 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were ₹ 94,487 crore, ₹ 1,07,671 crore, ₹ 1,23,320 crore, and ₹ 1,35,193 crore, respectively.