

Promotion and development of tourism in Buxar in Bihar

†782. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive proposal has been prepared for conservation, promotion and development of tourist places of Bihar;

(b) whether there is any plan to conserve the rich historical and religious heritage of Bihar and promote these comprehensively in view of the immense possibilities of employment in tourism;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that Buxar is a religious and mythological place where the Maharishi Vishwamitra had trained Lord Rama and Laxman in warfare skills; and

(d) if so, what is the plan to attract tourists by developing this sacred place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Conservation, promotion and development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the projects which are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and utilization of funds released earlier.

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, so far 16 projects have been sanctioned for 19591.33 Lakh to the State Government of Bihar under PIDDC (Product Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuits), Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Schemes.

In addition the State Government of Bihar has informed that a project of 160.00 Lakh for development of various river banks and tourist spots in Buxar was sanctioned by them in 2007-08. The project included development of Ramrekha Ghat, development of Kila and Museum. The project has been completed.

Medical tourism in the country

783. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and country-wise details of medical tourists who visited India in the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to take a series of steps to give further fillip to medical tourism in the country;

(c) if so, the details of steps proposed;

(d) whether the Ministry has ever tried to find out from the medical tourists the problem they are facing in the country, be it relating to medical treatment or Visa or hospital charges; and

(e) if so, what steps Ministry has taken to address those issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The total number of Nationality-wise Foreign Tourists Arrivals in India and the percentage share of tourists coming for the purpose of Medical Treatment during 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given in Statement (*See* below). This information is not available for the year 2015.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism has formulated guidelines for the promotion of Medical Tourism as Niche Tourism Products.

As per the existing guidelines the following assistance is provided to the eligible stakeholders subject to adherence of the prescribed conditions and procedures:

- (i) Financial assistance up to 2.00 lakh for participating in fairs/events/Road shows approved by the Ministry of Tourism in the overseas markets under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme.
- (ii) Financial assistance in the ratio of 50:50 for making publicity and promotional material subject to a maximum ceiling of 10.00 lakh.
- (iii) Financial assistance up to a maximum of 25.00 lakh on 50:50 sharing basis for organizing Wellness and Medical Tourism promotion shows.
- (iv) Permission for the use of Incredible India logo for the Wellness and Medical Tourism promotion events, films, literature etc.
- (v) Financial support for training courses focused on skill providing, skill up-gradation and skill certification courses for the persons engaged in Wellness and Medical Tourism sector as per the Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP) scheme guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism.
- (vi) Provision of space up to 4 square meters to Wellness and/or Medical

Tourism Associations at major international fairs for promoting Wellness and Medical Tourism at cost.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Tourism conducted a study on "Problems and challenges faced by medical tourists visiting India" in the year 2011.

The Government of India has Medical Visa and Medical Attendant Visa as separate categories of Visa to facilitate entry of medical tourists in India.

A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Yoga, Ayurveda Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH). This Board works as an umbrella organization that governs and promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner. It has representatives from AYUSH, Quality Council of India, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

For promoting quality in the healthcare sector the NABH provides accreditation to hospitals and wellness centres for adhering to quality standards. Under the MDA scheme, Ministry of Tourism also provides incentives to stakeholders accredited by NABH.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes Medical Tourism for boosting inflow of foreign tourists in a holistic manner, *inter-alia*, by running campaigns in the international markets under the Incredible India brand-line; conducting Road Shows, Know India Seminars; participating in major international tourism fairs and exhibitions and also supporting Events/Seminars/Conferences which have focus on health and medical tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism also produces brochures, CDs, films and other publicity material for promotion of Medical and Health Tourism.

Statement

The total number of Nationality-wise Foreign Tourists Arrivals in India and the percentage share of tourists coming for the purpose of Medical Treatment during 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Country of Nationality	Total number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India				Percentage of FTAs coming for the purpose of Medical Treatment (%)			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North America								
Canada	259017	256021	255222	268485	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
USA	980688	1039947	1085309	1118983	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
TOTAL	1239705	1295968	1340531	1387468	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Central & South America								
Argentina	9391	9831	10325	9731	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1
Brazil	17268	18440	18551	19563	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Mexico	10876	11254	13074	13978	0.1	0.3	0.1	0
Others	23453	24174	26486	26654	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.2
TOTAL	60988	63699	68436	69926	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2

Western Europe

Austria	36483	38585	36465	34360	0.8	1	0.6	0
Belgium	40478	42604	38091	37441	0.1	0.1	0.2	0
Denmark	34683	33084	30842	26775	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Finland	23730	22416	21212	18765	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
France	231423	240674	248379	246101	0.2	0.2	0.2	0
Germany	240235	254783	252003	239106	0.5	0.6	0.4	0
Greece	7253	7493	7983	8300	0.3	0.3	0.2	0
Ireland	22089	24546	27174	28978	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Italy	100889	98743	93951	91589	0.3	0.3	0.2	0
Netherlands	75153	74800	69547	67747	0.2	0.2	0.2	0
Norway	24578	23569	21462	19690	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2
Portugal	24061	24670	29612	36156	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
Spain	71405	67044	62079	66463	0.2	0.2	0.2	0
Sweden	48690	51058	48826	44948	0.3	0.5	0.3	0
Switzerland	46332	48388	48821	45773	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.1
United Kingdom	798249	788170	809444	838860	0.2	0.3	0.3	0

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Others	12964	12439	9975	9528	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.1
TOTAL	1838695	1853066	1855866	1860580	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Eastern Europe								
Czech Rep	11256	11129	10121	9878	0.3	0.5	0.3	0
Kazakhstan	9810	11653	14680	16736	4.1	5.1	4.3	1.4
Poland	28499	25030	23785	25205	0.1	0.4	0.3	9.5
Russian Fed.	144312	177526	259120	269832	1.8	3.3	2.1	0.1
Ukraine	23467	29033	31826	29281	1.3	1.7	1.8	0
Others	50354	51808	65551	71346	0.9	1	7.8	0.1
TOTAL	274598	312686	405083	422278	1.1	1.9	3.1	1.5
Africa								
Egypt	8791	10571	15062	16715	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.6
Kenya	30045	34037	40484	46158	4.4	6.5	9.2	13.2
Mauritius	22091	25013	27418	27945	3.8	4.1	5.1	5
Nigeria	33537	36762	34522	28314	26.8	29	42.4	49.6
South Africa	58430	50161	58023	56246	0.5	1	0.9	19.2

Sudan	2328	9626	8778	11896	8.5	9	9.1	0.3
Tanzania	19470	21862	23345	26284	11.3	13.7	18.5	0.3
Others	57694	73396	67639	67196	5.9	8.3	13.9	12.9
TOTAL	232386	261428	275271	280754	6.9	8.5	14.2	12.2
West Asia								
Bahrain	9587	10045	10531	13136	5	5.8	5.1	3.6
Iraq	30808	38826	41218	48321	29.2	33.3	53.5	13
Israel	48089	47649	48737	49312	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Oman	40577	49759	62252	88512	13.7	11.4	12.5	6.8
Saudi Arabia	26268	32127	42892	55487	5.2	4.2	5	0.8
Turkey	17359	22986	25022	24294	0.2	0.2	0.2	3
UAE	66383	41664	51513	59332	7.4	8.3	8	0.1
Yemen	14955	18654	25019	34207	6.9	10.5	13.3	1.2
Others	24747	29286	35929	41077	2.6	3.2	3.1	28.3
TOTAL	278773	290996	343113	413678	8	8.4	12.3	7
South Asia								
Afghanistan	89605	95231	111370	115569	12.5	16.5	45.3	34.2

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bangladesh	463543	487397	524923	942562	7.5	7.7	6.8	7.1
Bhutan	15489	15266	15016	16001	6.5	4.9	4.6	3.6
Iran	43399	40973	30527	31222	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.2
Maldives	53999	50428	45270	65052	56.6	59.3	50.1	56.2
Nepal	119131	125375	113790	126416	1	0.9	8.6	1
Pakistan	48640	59846	111794	96434	1.6	2.2	2.6	5.2
Sri Lanka	305853	296983	262345	301601	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.8
TOTAL	1139659	1171499	1215035	1694857	7.4	9.3	10.4	6.3
South East Asia								
Indonesia	32530	29559	33747	32215	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.5
Malaysia	208196	195853	242649	262026	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.1
Myanmar	25043	30588	34916	54631	3.9	2.5	2.2	2.3
Philippines	31151	33323	42224	43240	0.4	0.4	0.5	3.2
Singapore	119022	131452	143025	150731	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Thailand	92404	105141	117136	121362	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
Vietnam	9809	11332	12312	15132	0.1	0.1	0.1	0

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Others	3600	3666	4045	6468	0.8	0.4	4.3	0	Written Answers to [2 March, 2016]
TOTAL	521755	540914	630054	685805	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	
East Asia									
China (Main)	142218	168952	174712	181020	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	
China (Taiwan)	25916	31639	35491	35857	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	
Japan	193525	220015	220283	219516	0.1	0.1	0	0	
Rep. of Korea	108680	109469	112619	106870	0.1	0.1	0.1	15.5	
Others	5612	5547	4200	3529	0.9	0.3	9.8	0	
TOTAL	475951	535622	547305	546792	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Australasia									
Australia	192592	202105	218967	239762	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	Unstarred Questions 325
New Zealand	36839	38917	40801	42864	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	
Others	3734	3489	3806	3668	9.8	8.5	13.7	25.5	
TOTAL	233165	244511	263574	286294	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	
Not Classified elsewhere	13547	7356	23333	30667	0.2	0.5	1	0 . 5	
GRAND TOTAL	6309222	6577745	6967601	7679099	2.2	2.6	3.4	2.4	

* From the year 2014, Ministry of Tourism has started receiving the data of FTAs by Visa Type in place of purpose-wise FTAs from Bureau of Immigration.