

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Decline in number of foreign tourists**

†\*112. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists have comparatively decreased in the places of religious importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount allocated for promotion and beautification of tourist spots in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism does not compile the date of number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) at religious sites separately. However, the total number of FTAs in India during 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 6.97 million, 7.68 million and 8.03 million, respectively registering a continuous increase year over year.

(c) Development and Promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to States/UTs for tourism projects submitted by them subject to adherence of Scheme Guidelines, availability of funds and submission of Utilization Certificates for funds released earlier.

Ministry of Tourism operates various schemes through which CFA is provided to States/UTs for overall Development and Promotion of tourism.

Details of projects and amounts sanctioned during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 of Twelfth Five Year Plan from the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) for the State of Bihar are as below:

Sl. No.	Name of projects	Amount Sanctioned (₹ in lakh)
1	2	3
<b>2012-13</b>		
1.	Development of Antichak, Vikramshila in Bihar (2012-13).	500.00
	TOTAL	500.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
<b>2013-14</b>		
1.	Joint Dev. of Tourist Amenities at Gaya Railway Station in Association with Ministry of Railway	518.00
2.	Celebration of Patna Sahib Mahotsav, Bihar	17.50
3.	Celebration of Rajgir Festival (Mahotsav) in Bihar	10.00
4.	Celebration of Bodh Mahotsav at Bodh Gaya in Bihar	10.00
5.	Development of Mega Destination—Installation of Ropeway at Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Phase-I Rajgir, Bihar	722.41
6.	Development of Baba Mahendranath Temple in Siwan, Bihar	500.00
7.	Development of Aami-Thawe-Ugratara, Mahishi in Bihar	800.00
8.	Development of Basic Tourist Facilities and Site Development at Pragbodhi, Bodhgaya, Bihar	306.02
9.	Development of Basic Tourist Facilities and Site Development at Maner Sharif, Patna under Sufi Circuit in Bihar	800.00
10.	Development of Kesaria Stupa—Lauria Nandangarh Stupa	689.45
11.	Development of Tourism Infrastructure Pattharkatti, Gaya under Destination in Bihar	500.00
12.	Development of Basic Tourist Facilities and Site Development at Sujata Kuti, Bakrour, Bihar	283.48
13.	Dev. of Mega Project in Rajgir-Rejuvenation of Pond and Dev. of Infrastructure and Tourist Amenities at Pandu Pokhar, Rajgir in Bihar	1111.22
14.	Integrated Development of Ghora Katora (Rajgir—Jalmandir-Pawarpuri) as Mega Circuit in Bihar	4841.77
TOTAL		11109.85
<b>2014-15</b>		
1.	Release of Flexi Fund within Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the State of Bihar.	162.51
2.	Development of Lakes in Darbhanga (Harahi, Dighi and Ganga Sagar), Bihar	474.55
TOTAL		637.06
GRAND TOTAL		12246.91

Pursuant to acceptance of the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations for higher devolution of 42% to States from Union Taxes and Duties, PIDDC Scheme has been delinked from the Union Support. For the financial year 2015-16, for the UT Plan an amount of ₹ 20 crore only had been provided under the Scheme.

Following two schemes have been launched during 2014-15 for development of tourism:

**Swadesh Darshan:** Swadesh Darshan was launched for development of theme based tourist circuits in a way that caters to both mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner. Thirteen Circuits namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit have been identified for development under this Scheme.

**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD):** This Scheme has been launched for the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites to tap the growth of domestic tourists driven by religious sentiments and to augment tourism infrastructure at places of pilgrimage to facilitate pilgrims/tourists. Cities namely Amritsar, Kedarnath, Ajmer, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Dwarka, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kamakhya and Patna have been identified for infrastructure development under the scheme.

Details of projects and amounts sanctioned for the State of Bihar under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Scheme during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as below:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned (₹ in crore)	Year of sanction
1.	Basic Facilities at Vishnupad Temple, Gaya (PRASAD)	4.29	2014-15
2.	Development at Patna Sahib (PRASAD)	41.54	2015-16
3.	Cultural Centre, Bodhgaya (Swadesh Darshan)	33.17	2014-15

**Permission for rubber imports under advance authorization scheme**

\*113. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permission for rubber imports under Advance Authorization Scheme is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the number of such applications under consideration; and

(c) the details of the quantity of rubber for which each applicant has sought permission?