

Financial assistance to Goa for tourism

1163. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any financial assistance to the Government of Goa for development of tourism in Goa or any tourism related projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the finances or other assistance given for development of tourism in the State;

(c) whether the Goa Government has sought any assistance, financial or otherwise with the Union Government for the purpose of developing tourism in the State or otherwise; and

(d) the details and response of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned ₹ 99.98 crore during 2016-17 under Coastal Circuit in Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Development of Coastal Circuit (Sinquerim-Baga, Anjuna-Vagator, Mnorjim-Keri, Aguada Fort and Aguada Jail) in Goa, as sought by the State Government of Goa for the purpose of developing tourism in the State.

Achievements of the Ministry

1164. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements of the Ministry in last two years;

(b) whether presentation was made before the Prime Minister about the Ministry's last two years achievements;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) where the Ministry has fallen short of its targets and where it has excelled;

(e) the targets set for coming three years and roadmap to achieve the same;

(f) the details of difficulties brought before the Prime Minister and suggestions made to overcome them; and

(g) the details of core areas the Ministry is going to focus on in the coming three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (g) The details of achievements of the Ministry in the last two years are as under:

- India moved 13 positions ahead from 65th to 52nd rank in Tourism and Travel Competitiveness Index as per the World Economic Forum Report.
- An increase of 4.5% in Foreign Tourist Arrival (FTA) and 9.6% in Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEE) in India was recorded during 2015 over the year 2014. An increase of 8.9% in FTA and 14.1% in FEE was recorded during January to June, 2016 over the same period of the previous year.
- Facilities of E-Tourist Visa has been extended to 150 countries.
- Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 25 projects for an amount of ₹ 2047.77 crore under Swadesh Darshan Scheme and 11 projects has been sanctioned under PRASAD for an amount of ₹ 284.53 crore during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Incredible India Tourist Helpline available in the Toll Free Number 1800111363 in 12 international languages, including in Hindi and English.
- Ministry of Tourism has constituted a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board on 5.10.2015 to help foreign tourists to get better access to Indian health care.
- The Biennial International Buddhist Conclave is organised with the objective of showcasing the rich Buddhist Heritage of the country and encourage inbound tourism to the Buddhist sites.
- The International Tourism Mart is organised every year in North-Eastern States with the objective to highlight the tourism potential in the region.
- An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been set up for promoting Cruise Tourism in the country.
- Ministry of Tourism has launched a mobile app 'Swachh Paryatan' to ensure proper cleanliness in 25 identified ASI monuments.
- Ministry of Tourism has taken various major initiatives for Human Resource Development in the Tourism Industry.
- International recognition for India as the Birth Place of Yoga.
- Making prominent Buddhist sites including Sarnath more attractive and informative through sound and light shows and illumination of monuments.
- Promoting national integrity and celebrating cultural and culinary diversity of India by organising Bharat Parv as part of Republic Day celebration.

- Setting up the 'Indian Culinary Institute' at Tirupati and its centre at Noida for education, research, innovation in and documentation and promotion of rich Indian culinary arts.

Ministry of Tourism has not made any presentation about achievements before Prime Minister.

There has been an overall improvement in the growth of FTA and FEE in tourism sector during the last two years. The performance of MoT has also improved in terms of facilities provided to tourists and investment made for overall development of tourist destinations and circuits.

The focus of the Ministry is on Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Theme under the 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme and beautification and improvement of amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage sites under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Aggressive/targeted publicity and promotion of various tourism destinations and products in the international and domestic markets, capacity development in Tourism and Hospitality Sector, Development of Niche Tourism Products such as Cruise, Medical, Farm, Adventure etc. are amongst other focus areas.

Tourist Visa to foreigners for yoga

†1165. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to provide Tourist visa to foreigners in view of their increasing interest in yoga;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the foreigners are allowed to attend short term yoga programme on Tourist Visa and e-Tourist Visa.

Setting up of tourism hubs in the States

1166. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up tourism hubs in various States of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.