

1	2	3	4
3.	Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai-Sudhmahadev- Patnitop under Himalayan Circuit Theme. (2016-17)	97.82	19.56
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Anantnag-Kishtwar- Pahalgam - Daksum - Ranjit Sagar Dam Circuit under Himalayan Circuit Theme. (2016-17)	96.39	19.28
5.	Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Leh Circuit under Himalayan Circuit Theme. (2016-17)	96.93	19.39
TOTAL		486.22	97.25

In addition to above, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned one project for Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure Projects in J&K under Himalayan Circuit Theme in Swadesh Darshan Scheme with Central Financial Assistance of ₹82.97 crore in 2016-17.

Reduction in number of tourists to North India due to pollution

2547. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed any reduction in the number of tourists visiting North India due to a post-Diwali polluted atmosphere;

(b) if so, the estimated economic impact due to reduction in the number of tourists; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government so far to prevent such an economic loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

Increase in the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India at the International Check Posts (ICPs) of North India, which include Amritsar Airport, Attari rail, Attari-wagah land check post, Banbasa land check post, Chandigarh Airport, Delhi Airport, Lucknow Airport, Sonauli land check post and Varanasi Airport, has been observed during October and November 2016.

The number of FTAs at the ICPs of North India during October 2016 and November 2016 was 2.73 lakhs and 3.14 lakhs, respectively. The growth registered in FTAs during

October 2016 and November 2016 over same months of previous year were 6.74% and 12.14%, respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of tourism on ecology of hill areas of Western Ghats and Himalayas

2548. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies to ascertain the negative impact of tourism on the ecology of the hill areas including Western Ghats and Himalayas, have been conducted by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has informed that a High Level Working Group (HLWG) was constituted for identifying the Ecological-Sensitive Areas (ESA) covering six States with a view to conserving the biodiversity of the Western Ghats region while providing adequate opportunities for livelihood security of the local people by promoting environment-friendly and socially inclusive development in the Western Ghats region.

In order to promote sustainable tourism HLWG recommended the following:—

- (a) Existing regulatory provisions to assess environmental impact of tourism projects must be strengthened,
- (b) The tourism policy for Eco-Sensitive Area of the Western Ghats must provide local community ownership and benefits, and
- (c) All tourism hotspots in the Eco-Sensitive Area be monitored for compliance and assessed in terms of impact.

Steps to promote foreign tourists coming to the country

2549. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism can fetch us good revenue in the form of foreign currency and also give employment to people;

(b) how many foreign travellers have visited India for tourism in last three years;