

(c) and (d) Government is providing fiscal incentive of weighted tax deduction for R&D expenditure for in House R&D facility.

Government is implementing The National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP). This project aims at putting in place state-of-the-art automotive testing infrastructure that will meet safety and emission regulation requirements and also deepen India's automotive R&D capabilities.

The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) India Scheme being implemented by the Government also addresses technology development and commercialization aimed at making the electric/hybrid vehicles (xEV) market self-sustaining.

Use of sim cards of Nepal in border area of Uttarakhand

†*10. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had visited the border area Dharchula of Uttarakhand State;

(b) if so, when and whether the Minister had advised the local people to use Sim Cards of Nepal and also advised to provide foreign Sim Cards to the tourists visiting Mansarovar in view of the deplorable condition of the communication facilities available there; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 18-19 October, 2015 and 12 October, 2016. No such advice was given.

(c) In view of the above, question does not arise.

World heritage status for hill forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

*11. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Central Government for preparation of dossier to include hill forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj first in the Tentative List and later in the World Heritage List of UNESCO for their universal historical and architectural importance;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the reasons for not initiating this exercise on priority basis as the forts are pride heritage of the country; and

(c) the details of the guidelines the Archaeological Survey of India, being nodal organization, follows for identification of cultural sites for inclusion first in the Tentative List and subsequently in World Heritage List of UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to include Hill Forts and of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Tentative List of UNESCO for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The decision not to include the hill forts on UNESCO's Tentative List is on the basis of recommendation of Advisory Committee on World Heritage Matters (ACWHM) about these being an over-represented category on India's World Heritage List.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) follows a detailed consultative process from time to time through regional workshops or stakeholder participation, in consultation with the ACWHM, in order to periodically update India's Tentative List in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of UNESCO (2015). As per the Operational Guidelines a site considered as potential for inscription in World Heritage List of UNESCO is first included in the Tentative List which is a prerequisite condition. Subsequently, nomination dossier for the site is considered after one year the site remaining on Tentative List. As per the Guidelines only one Cultural and one Natural Site can be included in a year from one State Party.

New Tourism Policy

†*12. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the New Tourism Policy, 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its salient features;

(c) the details of the criteria prescribed to promote tourism in the country; and

(d) whether Government is considering to give status of industry to tourism sector looking at its vast potentiality, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A draft New National Tourism Policy is currently under consideration in the Ministry of Tourism. Some of the salient features of the proposed new Tourism Policy include:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.