

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Tripura	North East India Circuit	Development of North East Circuit: Agartala- Sipahijala-Melaghar- Udaipur-Amarpur- Tirthamukh-Mandirghat- Dumboor-Narikel Kunja- Gandachara-Ambassa in Tripura	99.59	19.92
TOTAL				672.38	248.46

PRASAD

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanctioned	Amt. Released
Assam			
1.	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destinations in and around Guwahati	33.98	6.80
TOTAL		33.98	6.80

Foreign tourists arrivals

†150. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting the country from financial year 2014-15 till date;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government has announced any special package in order to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (April-September 2016) along with the growth rate over the same period of previous year are as below:

Year	FTAs (in lakhs)
2014-15	77.56
2015-16	82.54
2016-17 (Apr-Sep 2016)	36.99

The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, regularly releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international markets, under the “Incredible India” brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India with the objective of increasing foreign tourist arrivals to the country.

In addition, the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism in the recent years for promoting tourism and to attract more tourists in the county are as below:

- Introduction of e-Tourist Visa facility for the citizens of 150 countries at 16 airports.
- Launch of 24X7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Infoline handling 10 international languages besides Hindi and English.
- The Ministry of Tourism has launched ‘Welcome Booklet’ with information on Do’s and Don’ts for tourists, contact details of India Tourism domestic offices and Tourist Helpline Number for distribution at immigration counters to tourists arriving at international airports.
- Organisation of biennial International Buddhist Conclave.
- Organisation of Annual International Tourism Mart for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States.
- Promotion of activities in tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with active participation in International Tourism Events.
- Financial Assistance to Stakeholders and Tourism Departments of States/ UTs for undertaking promotional activities under the Market Development Assistance Scheme.

Development of tourism circuits and infrastructure

151. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rich Indian culture attracts foreign tourists, the most;