

Decline in number of foreign tourists

†944. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sharp decline has been noticed in the number of foreign tourists coming to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the year-wise details of foreign tourists coming to India in the last three years; and

(d) the name of country from which maximum number of tourists came to India?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (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.

(d) The United States of America (USA) was the top source market in terms of FTAs in India. The number of FTAs from USA during 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 1.09 million, 1.12 million and 1.21 million, respectively.

Eco-tourism project at Alisagar in Telangana

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

(a) whether it is a fact that development of eco-tourism project at Alisagar in Nizamabad district of Telangana has been taken up;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the amount spent on it so far; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned ₹ 383.27 Lakh to the State Government in 2013-14 for Development of Eco-Tourism project at Alisagar in Nizamabad district under the Product Infrastructure for Development of Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) Scheme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, the Ministry of Finance de-linked the PIDDC scheme from Union Support from 2015-16 onwards in pursuance of the recommendations of Fourth Finance Commission and the States has to complete this project from their own resources.

Promotion of tourism in Eastern and North-Eastern States

946. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) What are the various steps taken or likely to be taken by Government to promote tourism and attract more number of tourists in the Eastern as well as North-Eastern States of the country;

(b) whether Government has recorded any increase in the number of tourists visiting in these States during this season as compared to the previous years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) promotes India as a holistic destination and as part of its on-going activities, releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote tourism products and destinations of the country including those in the Eastern and North Eastern States. MoT also promotes the tourism destinations and products through its websites and publicity and promotional material produced by it from time to time. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through the India tourism Offices Overseas with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and increasing tourist arrivals to the country. These include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising road shows, 'Know India' seminars and workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures; offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to stakeholders for promotion of tourism in the international and domestic markets under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

The Ministry of Tourism organises an annual International Tourism Mart (ITM) in States of the North Eastern Region on rotation basis, with the objective of showcasing the tourism potential of the North Eastern Region in the domestic and international