

Inflow of tourists in Goa

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

- (a) whether inflow of tourists in Goa has declined in the last three months;
- (b) whether any analysis has been made by Government to find out the reasons for the decline;
- (c) whether bookings in the hotels have been considerably reduced due to cancellation of the bookings; and
- (d) the percentage of decline in tourism in Goa on account of demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. There has been an increase in Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) at Goa International Airport during the last three months.

The numbers and growth observed in FTAs at Goa International Airport during the last three months as compared to FTAs of corresponding period of last year are as below:

Month	FTAs	*Growth (%)
Nov., 2016	49847	31.3
Dec., 2016	58059	20.1
Jan., 2017	63504	31.3

* Growth calculated over the corresponding period of previous year.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.
- (d) The impact, if any, of demonetisation was expected in the months of November and December 2016 and January 2017. However, increase in FTAs during those months reflects that there may not be any impact of demonetisation on tourism sector in Goa.

Eco-tourism in Karnataka

780. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of each of the river catchments selected for eco-tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Karnataka;
- (b) the estimated cost of the above projects selected and what is the status of implementation of the same; 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) The State Government of Karnataka has submitted the proposal 'Development of Eco-Tourism Circuit; Uttara Kannada District (Kali River Catchment)-Dakshin Kannada, Udupi District (Netravathi-Seethanandi Catchment)-Chikamangaluru, Shivamogga and Ballari District (Tungabhadra and Bhadra River Catchment)-Kalburgi and Bidar District (Bhima River Catchment)-Mandya and Kodagu District (Kaveri River Catchment)' in February, 2017 under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for ₹ 87.43 crore.

The projects are sanctioned under the scheme subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

Tourist circuits connecting important Forts of Maharashtra

781. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid any attention to develop tourist circuits connecting important forts in Maharashtra in tune with the desire of the Prime Minister expressed at Mumbai while performing jal-pujan for Shiv Smarak;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what time-bound special measures Government has taken for development of important forts to promote them as international and domestic tourist attractions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) For Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15.

Heritage Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the Scheme. All the places of historical importance in the country including forts are covered under this theme.

The Ministry has sanctioned the project 'Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit in Maharashtra' under Coastal Circuit Theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2015-16 for ₹ 82.17 crore. The sites covered under the project for development include Vijaydurg, Devgarh (Fort and Beach), Mithbav, Tarkarli, Tondavali, Nivati Fort, Shiroda, Sagarashwar and Mochemad.