

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanctioned
Jammu and Kashmir		
14.	Development at Hazratbal	42.02
	TOTAL	203.94

Effect of demonetisation on tourism industry

4619. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry has been badly affected due to demonetisation from November, 2016 to February, 2017;

(b) the TOTAL number of tourists from abroad who visited during this year and the corresponding period in the previous year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken several measures to address the adverse impact of demonetisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during November 2016 to February 2017 were 3.87 million (Provisional) registering a double digit growth of 13.11 % over same period of previous year.

(b) FTAs in India during the period January- February 2017 were 1.94 million as compared to FTAs of 1.69 million in January- February, 2016.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The measures taken by the Ministry of Tourism, in coordination with concerned stakeholders, to address the impact of demonetization on Foreign Tourists, are as below:

- (i) Ministry of Finance was requested that the limit of converting foreign currency to Indian Rupees be enhanced to enable foreign tourists to take care of their incidental expenses.
- (ii) To permit foreign tourists/ travellers to return the unused Indian currency to the banks/authorized money changers on submission of original exchange receipts.
- (iii) Sufficient number of exchange counters/banks to be made available at the International Airports during peak hours.

- (iv) Advised banks/foreign exchange dealers to deploy adequate number of persons to facilitate tourists to avoid long queues.
- (v) All concerned authorities at International Airports such as Airport Authority of India/GMR/GVK etc. in the country were advised to put up proper signages in regard to foreign money changers/banks and availability of prepaid taxi service providers.
- (vi) Authorities were advised to ensure that prepaid taxi providers accept payment by digital mode.
- (vii) MoT also made arrangements to post duty officers at International Airports to assist and monitor the facilitation efforts being made for the tourists at the airports.
- (viii) All India Tourism Offices in the country were instructed to follow up and ensure that ATM, foreign exchange counters and bank counters at international and domestic airports serviced the arriving tourists properly. All Regional Directors of MoT were asked to monitor the situation on day to day basis.
- (ix) Archaeological Survey of India (Monuments) and all concerned associations were advised to provide e-payment options and install POS (Swap machines) for the benefit of the tourists.
- (x) Ministry of Tourism 24x7 Multi-lingual Tourist Helpline executives were sensitized to handle queries arising out of the above issues.

Wine tourism in the country

4620. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that wine tourism is catching fancy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to promote wine tourism in Maharashtra in view of large number of vineyards in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that