

Introduction of new schemes for promotion of tourism

1577. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce new schemes for the development and promotion of tourism in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received with regard to development and promotion of tourism from State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) For the development and promotion of tourism in the country, in the Budget 2017-18 the Government has proposed the creation of Special Tourism Zones and launch of Incredible India 2.0 Campaign.

Details of the Schemes would be worked out after passage of Budget by the Hon'ble Houses of Parliament.

Foreign tourists

1578. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign tourists visited the country during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, the details thereof;

(b) whether any new initiatives have been taken by Government for promotion of tourism in the country and to attract more foreign tourists;

(c) whether foreign tourists are charged much more than the domestic tourists in different tourist locations including Taj Mahal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The total number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (April, 2016-January, 2017) are as below:

Year	FTAs (in lakhs)
2014-15	77.6
2015-16*	82.5
2016-17* (upto Feb 2017)	83.2

*Provisional figures

(b) The initiatives taken by the Government in order to promote tourism in the country and to attract more tourists in the county are as below:

- (i) Promotion of India as a holistic destination in the international markets under the Incredible India brand line.
- (ii) Organisation of biennial International Buddhist Conclave.
- (iii) Organisation of Annual International Tourism Mart for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States.
- (iv) Introduction of e-Visa facility for the citizens of 161 countries.
- (v) Launch of 24X7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Infoline handling 10 international languages besides Hindi and English.
- (vi) 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.
- (vi) The Ministry of Tourism has launched an initiative for providing pre-loaded SIM Cards to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa.
- (vii) Financial assistance to Stakeholders and Tourism Departments of States/ Union Territories for undertaking promotional activities under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

(c) and (d) As per Rule 6 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, differential entry rates are charged from foreign visitors w.e.f. 1.4.2016. The existing fee structure is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of entry fee structure at Centrally protected ticketed monuments effective from 01.04.2016.

		Previous Entry Free rates	Entry fee w.e.f. 01.04.2016
Category A monuments (World Heritage Monuments)	(i) Citizen of India and visitors from SAARC and BIMSTEC countries and overseas citizens of India	₹ 10/- per head	₹ 30/- per head
	(ii) Others (all Nationals other than from countries mentioned above)	₹ 250/- per head	₹ 500/- per head
	(iii) Others (as ii above)	---	*₹ 750/- per head
Category B monuments (Other Ticketed Monuments)	(i) Citizen of India and visitors from SAARC and BIMSTEC countries and overseas citizens of India	₹ 5/- per head	₹ 15/- per head
	(ii) Others (All Nationals other than from countries mentioned above)	₹ 100/- per head	₹ 200/- per head
	(iii) Others (as ii above)	---	*₹ 300/- per head

*Provided that the ₹ 750/- and ₹ 300/- ticket is optional for Nationals of countries other than mentioned in (i) above. This would entitle the ticket holder to additional facilities as specified by Director General, by order, from time to time.

Funds allocated for development of tourism spots

†1579. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have been allocated funds for the development of their tourist spots during the financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16, till date;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any requests from the States for declaring new tourist spots as 'tourist circuits';

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.