

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Tourist Police will be administered by the Union Government or the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether tourism sector is creating employment in conformity with tourism policy which is expected to almost double in a decade; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management (IITTM) in its study titled "Functioning of Tourist Police in States/UTs and Documentation of Best Practices", has recommended introduction of the Tourist Police with uniforms sporting Incredible India logo for the safety and security of the tourists.

It has been recommended that the Tourist Police should work under the control of District Police Administration of the concerned State with policing power exclusively for maintaining the safety and security of the tourist.

(d) and (e) As per the 2 Tourism Satellite Account of India (TSAI) and subsequent estimations, the contribution of tourism to total employment of the country, during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 were 54.5 million, 58.0 million, 62.0 million and 67.0 million, respectively.

Funds for development of tourism destinations in Amritsar

1907. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for the development of tourist destinations in the year 2016-17 for Amritsar district in view of Amritsar being a very important tourism destination where around two lakh tourists visit daily to pay homage at Golden Temple, Jallianwala bagh, Durgiana temple and other tourism and religious destinations; and

(b) the quantum of funds allocated and sanctioned for the development of tourist destinations in the year 2017-18 for Amritsar district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Sir, a project titled "Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal

at Amritsar" at the cost of ₹6.45 crore under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been sanctioned in the year 2015-16 in Punjab. Till date an amount of ₹5.11 Crore has been released for the project which includes the fund of ₹1.88 crore released on 27.09.2017 in financial year 2017-18.

Setting up of five special tourism zones

1908. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up five Special Tourism Zones in partnership with States, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total amount earmarked for tourism development in the past three financial years and the amount spent, year-wise and up to 1 December, 2017;
- (c) the progress of circuits development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme and PRASAD Scheme along with State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) whether any focus has been laid on development of eco-tourism in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Pursuant to Budget announcements of 2017-18 the Ministry of Tourism has initiated action on formulation of scheme guidelines for development of five Special Tourism Zones in the country. A consultation meeting in this regard was held with the stakeholders which included central Ministries/Departments, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and Private sector in September 2017.

(c) and (d) Under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes Ministry is focusing on development of tourist circuits and destinations in the country in a planned and sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure. Eco-Circuit has also been identified as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes since its launch in January 2015 Ministry has sanctioned 88 projects for ₹ 6236 Crores. The details of the projects sanctioned under both schemes are given in the Statement.