

Tourism destinations affected by prostitution

1912. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourist destinations are getting affected by sex tourism and prostitution;
- (b) if so, key reasons for the same; and
- (c) what steps Government is taking to address the problem both socially and by enforcing the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism in the year 2010, has launched code of conduct to be adopted by the Indian travel and tourism industry for Safe and Honourable Tourism with the objectives to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.

As per the advice of the Ministry of Tourism some State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have deployed Tourist Police to safeguard tourists at tourist spots.

Further, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline (toll free number 1800111363/short code 1363) in 12 Languages including Hindi and English in February 2016, to facilitate and assist domestic and foreign tourists in terms of information relating to travel in India and to provide a sense of safety and security.

Tourism circuit in Tamil Nadu

1913. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to develop Trichy - Pudukkottai - Shivganga - Rameshwaram - Thoothukudi - Tiruchendur - Tirunelveli - Kanyakumari as Tourism Circuit in Tamil Nadu pursuant to identification by National Level Consultant (NLC);
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the funds earmarked by Government for this purpose and the status of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Trichy- Pudukkottai-Shivganga- Rameshwaram-Thoothukudi-Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli- Kanyakumari circuit was identified for development under

Product Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) scheme. Pursuant to increasing States share in Union taxes and duties to 42% in 14th Finance Commission from 32% in 13th Finance Commission, PIDDC Scheme has been delinked from the Union Support from 2015-16 onwards.

For Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes, Ministry has a scheme of Swadesh Darshan. Under this scheme, one circuit has been identified for development of Coastal Circuit (Chennai- Mamamallapuram - Rameshwaram - Manpadu -Kanyakumari) during 2016-17.

(c) The amount sanctioned for development of Coastal Circuit (Chennai- Mamamallapuram - Rameshwaram - Manpadu - Kanyakumari) under Swadesh Darshan scheme is ₹99.92 crore and the amount released (as on 30-11-2017) is ₹19.98 crore.

Decrease in foreign tourist arrivals

1914. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrival of foreign tourists have considerably decreased during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, month-wise and country-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has chalked out any plan to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when those measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government of India has already taken various initiatives to boost tourism in the country, which *inter-alia* include the following:

- Extended the facility of e- Visa for the citizens of 163 countries.
- Launched campaigns in the international and domestic markets to promote the various tourism products and destinations through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy.
- Launched the Incredible India 2.0 campaign with market specific promotional plans and content creation.