

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Swadesh Darshan	Andaman and Nicobar 2016-17	Development of Coastal Circuit (Long Island-Ross Smith Island-Neil Island- Havelock Island-Baratang Island-Port Blair)	4218.67

National Tourism Policy

626. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how and in what manner will the revised National Tourism Policy be approved, whether Government has formulated a draft of the National Tourism Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would table the policy in Parliament for further deliberations and consensus; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) A National Tourism Policy (NTP) was formulated in 2002. However, taking into account the widespread, interrelated global developments and advancements, which have had a strong bearing on the Tourism sector, a new draft National Tourism Policy has been formulated and the draft Policy is currently being reviewed in the Ministry of Tourism prior to seeking Cabinet approval on the same.

Some of the salient features of the new draft National Tourism Policy include:

- Focus of the Policy on employment generation and community participation in tourism development.
- Stress on development of tourism in a sustainable and responsible manner.
- An all-encompassing Policy involving linkages with various Ministries, Departments, States/Union Territories and Stakeholders.
- The Policy enshrines the vision of developing and positioning India as a “MUST EXPERIENCE” and “MUST RE-VISIT” Destination for global travellers, whilst encouraging Indians to explore their own country.
- Development and promotion of varied tourism products including the rich Culture and Heritage of the country, as well as niche products such as Medical and Wellness, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), Adventure, Wildlife, etc.

- Development of core infrastructure (airways, railways, roadways, waterways, etc.) as well as Tourism Infrastructure.
- Developing quality human resources in the tourism and hospitality sectors across the spectrum of vocational to professional skills development and opportunity creation.
- Creating an enabling environment for investment in tourism and tourism-related infrastructure.
- Emphasis on technology enabled development in tourism.
- Focus on domestic tourism as a major driver of tourism growth.
- Focus on promotions in established source markets and potential markets, which are contributing significantly to global tourist traffic, with targeted and country specific campaigns.
- Emphasis on Tourism as the fulcrum of multi-sectoral activities and dovetailing of activities of the Ministry with important/flagship schemes of the Government of India.

Development of tourism circuits in Maharashtra

627. SHRI SAMBAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to develop tourism circuits connecting places of immense tourist interest comprising rock-cut caves other than Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta and forts of Marathas also in Maharashtra; and

(b) if not, the reasons for lack of initiative for promotion of rock-cut caves at Junnar, Pitalkhora, Karle, Bhaja, Bedsa, Lenyadri, etc. and a number of major Maratha forts including Raigad from tourism point of view which may generate employment for large number of unemployed youth locally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) The Ministry of Tourism is developing theme based tourist circuits in the country under its Scheme of Swadesh Darshan. All the tourist sites/destinations in the country including rock-cut caves and forts in Maharashtra are covered under the Scheme. The Ministry has sanctioned the project 'Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit in Maharashtra under Swadesh Darshan Scheme' in 2015-16 for ₹ 82.17 crore.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, undertakes several promotional activities in the domestic and international markets for promotion of the varied tourism