

### Expansion of Ramayan Circuit

†1074. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Government's scheme to expand the Ramayan circuit;
- (b) whether any new places of Bihar have been included under the expansion of this circuit including Buxar; and
- (c) the details of the schemes adopted for the development/expansion of the pilgrimages related to Lord Ram under the Ramayan circuit and the details of the funds allocated under this head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Ramayana Circuit is one of the thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry has initially identified fifteen destinations for development under the Ramayana Circuit namely Sitamarhi, Buxar and Darbhanga (Bihar), Ayodhya, Nandigram, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh), Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh), Mahendragiri (Odisha), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Nashik and Nagpur (Maharashtra), Bhadrachalam (Telangana), Hampi (Karnataka) and Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu).

(c) The details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry under the Ramayana Circuit theme are as below:

| (₹ in crore) |                               |                                            |                 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sl. No.      | State/UT and Year of Sanction | Name of the Project                        | Amt. Sanctioned |
| 1.           | Uttar Pradesh 2016-17         | Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur | 69.45           |
| 2.           | Uttar Pradesh 2017-18         | Development of Ayodhya                     | 133.31          |
| TOTAL        |                               |                                            | 202.76          |

### Promotion of tourism in NCT of Delhi

1075. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is decrease in number of tourists in NCT of Delhi in last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any initiative for promoting tourism in NCT of Delhi area; and
- (d) if so, details of amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) The estimated figures of domestic tourist visits in Delhi during 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 25.3 million, 28.5 million and 29.1 million (provisional) respectively and the estimated figures of foreign tourist visits in Delhi during 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 2.4 million, 2.5 million and 2.7 million (provisional) respectively.

(c) As per the information provided by Department of Tourism, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, in order to promote tourism, Delhi Government, undertakes following initiatives/ activities/ programmes:

- Tourist Information Centres have been set up at various locations.
- Dilli Haats have been set up at three places.
- Adventure Activities including Boating and Adventure Park.
- Cultural events at Dilli Haats and Garden of Five Senses.
- Tourist related services such as Hop on Hop off Services (HoHo).

Further, in order to promote tourism in India including in NCT of Delhi, Government of India has taken several initiatives which include:

- Extension of e-visa facility to citizens of 166 countries.
- Launch of the Incredible India 2.0 campaign with market specific promotional plans and content creation.
- Launch of 24x7 Toll Free multi-lingual tourist helpline in 12 international languages including Hindi and English.
- Organisation of India Tourism Mart with an objective to create an annual Global Tourism Mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world. It provides a platform for all stakeholders in tourism and hospitality industries to interact and transact business opportunities.

- Organisation of biennial International Buddhist Conclave.
- Organisation of Annual International Tourism Mart for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States.
- Promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas through the India tourism offices abroad with active participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising Road Shows, "Know India" seminars and workshops.
- Central finance assistance to States/UTs under the schemes of Swadesh Darshan, National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) and Assistance to Central Agencies for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country.

(d) As per the information provided by Department of Tourism, Government of NCT of Delhi, the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred under the Plan Scheme - Promotion of Tourism - Delhi as a Destination are as under:

(Figures in Lakh)

| Year    | Sanctioned | Expenditure |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 2015-16 | 258.89     | 258.89      |
| 2016-17 | 446.14     | 446.14      |
| 2017-18 | 655        | 490         |

The amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred under the Plan Scheme - Running of Tourist Information Counters are as under:

(Figures in Lakh)

| Year    | Sanctioned | Expenditure |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 2015-16 | 75         | 75          |
| 2016-17 | 75         | 75          |
| 2017-18 | 100        | 100         |

#### **Financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for Kumbh Mela**

1076. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has provided Central financial assistance to Uttar