

Rural circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme

1892. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any proposals submitted by States for identifying specific regions for rural circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, with a particular reference to Punjab; and

(c) the details of projects sanctioned under the rural circuit of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (c) The projects for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations/ Central Agencies and are sanctioned subject to submission of project proposals, their adherence to relevant scheme guidelines, submission of suitable detailed project reports, availability of funds, and utilization of funds released earlier. Submission of proposals by the State Governments and its sanctioning under the Scheme is a continuous process.

Based on the above criteria, the details of projects sanctioned under rural circuit are as follows:—

(₹ in crore)			
Sl. No.	State/Sanction Year	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Bihar (2017-18)	Development of Bhitiharwa-Chandrahia-Turkaulia	44.65
2	Kerala (2018-19)	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	80.37
TOTAL			125.02

The Government of Punjab has not submitted any specific project under Rural Circuit theme of the scheme.

Violence against tourists

1893. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing incidents of violence against the tourists in the country have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether incidents of violence against the tourists have also been reported from Dharamsala, Manali, Kulu, Dalhousie and Shimla recently during the peak tourist seasons, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the incidents of violence against the tourists are posing a threat to the tourism industry in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism does not compile data on incidents of violence against the tourists in the country as such the 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, safety and security of tourists, both domestic and foreign tourists, is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

(c) As per the information received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, no violence cases have been reported from Dharamsala, Manali, Kullu, Dalhousie and Shimla recently during the tourists' peak season.

(d) and (e) There has been steady growth of tourists into the country which is evident from the following data:

Sl. No.	Details	2015	2016	2017
1.	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the country	8.03	8.80	10.03
	(in Million) and its percentage increment	(4.6%)	(9.7%)	(14%)

Further, Ministry of Tourism has already taken following steps in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists:—

- (i) The Ministry of Tourism along with all stakeholders, including the Tourism Departments of all States and UTs, have adopted the 'Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism' which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic right like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents in particular, women and children.
- (ii) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 in 12 Languages including 10 international language, Hindi and English in February, 2016, for domestic and foreign tourists to provide support service

in terms of information relating to Travel in India and also offers appropriate guidance to tourists in distress while travelling in India.

- (iii) The Ministry of Tourism has issued the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for travelers in September 2014 to stress on the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation for ensuring a pleasant experience to the tourists.
- (iv) The Security of tourists is a State Government subject, however, with efforts of Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations of Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have deployed tourists police in one form or the other.
- (v) The Ministry of Tourism conducts constant dialogue with Ministry of Home Affairs State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, various tourism related institutions for development and promotion of tourism in the country including safe and honourable Tourism.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister correcting answer to Question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Harsh Vardhan. ...*(Interruptions)*... केवल माननीय मंत्री जी की बात रिकॉर्ड में जाएगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): Sir, I rise to lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 1538 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 2018 regarding 'Statistics regarding centrally sponsored health schemes'.

...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: मेरा आप सभी से आग्रह है कि आप अपनी-अपनी सीटों पर जाइए। बजट बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। माननीय चिदम्बरम जी बोलने वाले हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय चिदम्बरम जी बोलने वाले हैं। बजट बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय चिदम्बरम जी बजट पर बोलने वाले हैं। वे देश के वित्त मंत्री रहे हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... वे बड़े जानकार हैं, हम सब उनके विचारों को जानें व समझें। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मेरा पुनः आग्रह होगा कि आप सभी वेल से वापस अपनी सीटों पर जाएं और बजट पर बहस होने दें। ...*(व्यवधान)*... माननीय चिदम्बरम जी, जो वर्षों तक देश के वित्त मंत्री रहे हैं और वे बड़े अनुभवी आदमी हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*... बजट पर उनकी बातों से हम सभी को बहुत लाभ होगा और हम उनकी बातों को सुनें, यह मेरा फिर से आग्रह