

(b) whether it is also a fact that Coastal Regulation Zone clearance has already been obtained from the Ministry of Environment and Forest;

(c) if so, reasons for not taking up the works at a time when NIO does not have a proper laboratory since 1976;

(d) in the absence of basic infrastructure, how students and researchers are able to study and do research at NIO; and

(e) by when the Ministry will take up and complete the works?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The foundation-stone for CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR- NIO) Regional Centre to be established near Rushikonda in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh was laid on 31-01-2015.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been received.

(c) The delay is mainly due to various requirements which were of administrative and statutory nature. The requirements were fulfilled with documentation submitted and clearance is received.

(d) Presently, CSIR- NIO Centre at Visakhapatnam is housed in two rented buildings. The desired Research and Development activities are carried out, since the Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratory equipment.

(e) The construction work of the Centre requires 24 months, subject to availability of all necessary approvals.

Police force for tourism sector

2681. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the atrocities on tourists visiting the country have damaged the country's reputation to a large extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a separate police force for tourism sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, there has been steady growth of tourists into the country which is evident from the following data:—

Particulars	2015	2016	2017
Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the country (in Million) and its percentage increment	8.03 (4.6%)	8.80 (9.7%)	10.03 (14%)

(c) and (d) The ‘Public Order’ and ‘Police’ are State subjects. As such, safety and security of tourists, both domestic and foreign tourists, is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

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.

New tourism centres in the country

†2682. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the details of newly developed tourism centres and amount spent thereon along with the details of renovation done in the old tourism centres in last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): The Ministry under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes provides Financial Assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure and facilities in the new and existing tourist sites/circuits of the country. Under the above schemes, Ministry does not provide funds for renovation of old tourist centers. However, Ministry provides financial assistance for developing tourism facilities like Last Mile Connectivity, Public conveniences, Helipads, Tourist Facilitation Centre, Interpretation Centers, Exhibition Halls, CCTVs, Wi-Fi, Sitting Spaces, Parking etc.

The state-wise details of projects sanctioned under the above schemes during last three years are given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.