

Domestic tourist influx under Swadesh Darshan scheme

2553. SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Swadesh Darshan scheme has increased domestic tourism in India; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan scheme is developing thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner with an objective of providing better facilities and experience to the tourists which in turn is expected to lead increased visitation of tourists in these circuits.

Ministry does not maintain circuit wise data of tourist visitation of sites developed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The scheme was launched in January 2015. The domestic tourist visits in different States/UTs during 2016, 2017 and 2018 were 1615.4 million, 1657.6 million and 1854.9 million respectively.

Construction of Yatri-Niwas in North Eastern States

2554. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Yatri-Niwas, especially in backward and rural areas of North Eastern States as on date, location-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to construct Yatri-Niwas in various North Eastern States during the current fiscal year, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has revived the scheme for providing Central financial assistance for construction of Yatri-Niwas, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Development of tourist accommodation units in the country is primarily undertaken by the private sector. The Ministry of Tourism,

Government of India only classifies operational hotels under its voluntary scheme of classification/approval of hotels.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present the Ministry of Tourism does not implement any scheme to maintain or provide Central Financial Assistance for construction of Yatri Niwas in North Eastern States. There is no proposal received or pending for revival of any scheme for construction of Yatri Niwas.

Promotion of tourism in tribal areas of West Bengal

2555. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any project to promote tourism in tribal areas of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is planning to incorporate inclusive policy on tribal area tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism, under the Swadesh Darshan scheme is developing thematic circuits in the country in planned and prioritized manner. Tribal circuit has been identified as one of the thematic circuit for development under the scheme. The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. Ministry has not sanctioned any project under Tribal Circuit theme in West Bengal.

The details of project sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in West Bengal and under the Tribal Circuit theme of the scheme in the country are as follows: