

- (viii) Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories *i.e.*, e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for the nationals of 171 countries.
- (ix) E-Visa has been further liberalised and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
- (x) Revamp of Incredible India Website having information on tourism sites/destinations in different States/Union Territory Administrations.
- (xi) Launched Buddhist website:-*indiathelandofbuddha.in* to promote and showcase the rich Buddhist Heritage in India.
- (xii) Launched Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Programme, an online digital platform to provide basic, advanced and refresher courses for tourist facilitator.
- (xiii) New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.
- (xiv) Lowering GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹ 7,500/night to 12%; those above ₹ 7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.

Statue of Unity

2716. SHRI JUGALSINH MATHURJI LOKHANDWALA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tourism has increased substantially in the area after the Statue of Unity has been opened for visitors and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the revenue generated till now from the visitors to the Statue of Unity;
- (c) whether Government plans to develop the area around the Statue to increase employment and tourism in the surrounding area and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the yearly revenue generation from the major tourist attractions in the country including Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Destination-wise data on tourist visits is not maintained in Ministry

of Tourism, Government of India. However as per the information received from Gujarat State Government, there has been increase in tourists substantially in the area after the Statue of Unity has been opened for visitors. The details are given in Statement (See below).

(b) Information on revenue received from tourism is not centrally maintained in Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. However, as per the information received from Gujarat State Government, total income generated at Statue of Unity from selling tickets including parking fees from November, 2018 to February, 2020 works out to ₹ 1,16.31 crore.

(c) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD and Assistance to Central Agencies, provides central financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territories/Central Agencies for development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities which is expected to generate employment in the area.

As per the information received from Gujarat State Government, recreational places have been developed around the Statue of Unity to increase employment and tourism in the surrounding area. Moreover, local people were employed during the construction of various projects undertaken by various Departments including Tourism Department of the State Government, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust etc. At present approximately 3000 persons have been employed as Tourist Guide, Security Guard, Animal Keeper, Operations, Maintenance and Repair Staff, Drivers, Photographers etc.

(d) As per information provided by ASI, the total revenue from ticketed monuments under Archaeological Survey of India has been reported of ₹247.89 crore in 2017-18, ₹302.34 crore in 2018-19 and ₹277.78 crore in 2019-20 (April - January).

Statement

A. Details of Tourists visited before Statue of Unity was opened

Sl. No.	Year	Total number of tourists visited	Monthly Average
1.	2018 (from January to October, 2018)	5,81,255	58,125

B. Details of Tourists visited after Statue of Unity has been opened

Sl. No.	Year	Total number of tourists visited	Monthly Average
1.	November 2018 to February 2020	42,58,060	2,66,129

Revenue from Statue of Unity

2717. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total cost incurred on construction of Statue of Unity;
- (b) whether Government has estimated total revenue that will be generated by Statue of Unity yearly, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of persons who visited Statue of Unity and the revenue generated from it till date, year-wise and month-wise;
- (d) the amount spent on its maintenance and advertisement during the period, year-wise; and
- (e) the yearly revenue generation from the major tourist attractions in the country including Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) As per the information received from the Gujarat Government, the cost incurred on the construction of the Statue of Unity till 31st December, 2019 is amounting to ₹2361.29 crore.

(b) The yearly income likely to be generated from Statue of Unity is difficult to forecast as it depends on the visitor footfall in the coming years. However, as per the information received from Gujarat State Government, total income generated from selling tickets including parking fees from November 2018 to February 2020 works out to ₹ 116.31 crore.

(c) The detail regarding the same is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) As per the information provided by Gujarat Government, the amount spent on the maintenance till date is nil as the project is under defect liability period. The Ministry of Tourism under its promotion and publicity head spent around ₹22.47 crore on advertisement during the period 2018-19.

(e) The total revenue from ticket monument under Archaeological Survey of India has been ₹247.89 crore in 2017-18, ₹302.34 crore in 2018-19 and ₹277.78 crore in 2019-20 (April - January).