

**Promotion of tourism at protected forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in
Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**

1118. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any direct or indirect initiative for promotion of tourism at forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj located in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any attempt to offer fort tourism to the people in packaged format clubbing other places of heritage and religious places of attraction falling on a particular route; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to do so in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination under the Incredible India brand-line. As part of its on-going activities, the Ministry releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country including Forts, Palaces and places of tourism attraction.

Further Govt. of Maharashtra informed that it has taken several initiatives for the promotion of forts which are associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra including promotion through its tourism website wherein various details along with pictures such forts are prominently displayed. Govt. of Maharashtra also conducted a Photography & Videography Fort Competition in January 2020.

Govt of Tamil Nadu informed that the Gingee Fort associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with is located in Villupuram district, situated at a distance of 160 kms from Chennai is prominently promoted through Tamilnadu Tourism website wherein details and pictures of the same is prominently displayed.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination under the Incredible India brand-line. As part of its on-going activities, the Ministry releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country including forts and other heritage and religious places of attraction.

Further, the information related to various forts and places of heritage and religious places of attraction is prominently displayed on the Ministry of Tourism's website: www.incredibleindia.org.

Safety and security of genuine domestic and international tourists

1119. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main reasons for country in not achieving the status of one of the most attractive tourist attractions globally are the safety, insecurity, cheating by shopkeepers, drivers of hired vehicles, unfriendly behavior of local people, lack of quality facilities, economic exploitation, etc;

(b) if so, whether Government has undertaken any detailed fact-finding study in the last three years for each of the States to identify the negative factors for sluggish growth in domestic and international tourism sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the action which Government proposes to initiate in consultation with States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (c) Details of Domestic Tourist Visits and International Tourist Arrivals in the country during the last three years are given below:—

Sl. No.	Parameter	2017	2018	2019(P)
1.	Number of Domestic Tourist Visits (million)	1657.6 (2.6%)*	1854.9 (11.9%)*	2321.98 (25.3%)*
2.	International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in India (million)	16.81 (11.8%)*	17.42 (3.7%)*	17.91 (2.8%)*

P: Provisional

* Figures in bracket shows Annual growth.

As may be seen there has been a steady growth of tourists in the country.

The Ministry of Tourism has taken various measures to address issues relating to safety of tourists, cheating etc. as detailed below:—

(i) 'Public Order' and 'Police' and prevention of crime including safety & security of Tourists are State subjects. However, with efforts of Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments/Union Territory Administration of Delhi, Goa, Himachal