

expect to attract at least 2500 additional foreign tourists to India through this scheme.

Priority to Pilgrimage Tourism in Seventh Five Year Plan

836. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'pilgrimage tourism' has been accorded any priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so the nature of priority given in the plan and the total amount allocated for this purpose;

(c) the places of pilgrimage and tourist importance which have been specially selected for this purpose, State-wise and the facilities proposed to be provided thereon; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to accord any priority to this concept and evolve any comprehensive programme in consultation with the India Tourism Development Corporation and State Government for this purpose and the likely date by which it would be done ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Promotion of pilgrim tourism has been accorded due priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 150 lakhs has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for this purpose including Rs. 40 lakhs for the current financial year. Also, the Department of Tourism set up a registered society in the year 1978, called Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti for the purpose of construction of Dharamshalas (Yatrikas) at important pilgrim centres throughout the country with a view to meeting the needs of pilgrims visiting different religious centres in the country.

(c) A list of the centres where the Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti proposes to construct Yatrikas is given in the statement below. These Yatrikas are designed to provide neat, but inexpensive accommodation for the pilgrims. Yatrikas at Chitrakoot and Amarkantak (M.P.) have already been commissioned. Yatrikas at Brindavan, Kampil, Nandmehar (UP), Bidar (Karnataka) and Puri (Orissa) are under construction. The final selection, has however, to be made in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Proposed Yatrikas to be Constructed by Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti

1. ANDHRA PRADESH

(Any two will be constructed)

1. Sri Sailem
2. Amarwati
3. Srikakulam

2. ASSAM

(one —do—)

1. Gauhati (Kamakshi Devi)

3. BIHAR

(Any three —do—)

1. Bihar Sharif
2. Gaya
3. Deoghar
4. Harmandir Sahib, Patna

4. DELHI

(Any one will be constructed)

1. Delhi

5. GUJARAT

(Any two —do—)

1. Dwarkaji
2. Ambaji
3. Somnath

6. HIMICHAL PRADESH

(Three —do—)

1. Nainadevi
2. Simla
3. Kangra (Jawalamukhi)

7. HARYANA

(One —do—)

1. Agaraha

8. JAMMU AND KASHMIR

(Three —do—)

1. Sirinagar
2. Chandanbari
3. Katra
4. Vaishnodevi

9. KARNATAKA

(Two —do—)

1. Sravanabelagola
2. Bangalore

10. KERALA

(One —do—)

1. Kaladi
2. Subarimala

11. MADHYA PRADESH

(Three —do—)

1. Onkareswar
2. Maheswar
3. Ujjain

12. MAHARASHTRA

(Three —do—)

1. Trimabkeswar
2. Bhimeswar
3. Nasik
4. Sirdj

13. ORISSA (Any two will be constructed)
1. Puri
 2. Bhubaneswar
 3. Konark
14. PONDICHERRY (Any one —do—)
1. Karikal
 2. Pondicherry
15. RAJASTHAN (Any three —do—)
1. Mount Abu
 2. Nath Dwara
 3. Ajmer
 4. Jaisalmer
 5. Shahpura
16. TAMIL NADU (Any three —do—)
1. Rameswaram
 2. Tanjore
 3. Kanya Kumari
17. UTTAR PRADESH (Any five —do—)
1. Brindaban
 2. Nandmehar
 3. Naimisharanya
 4. Kampil
 5. Rishikesh
 6. Allahabad
 7. Badrinath
 8. Kedarnath
 9. Gangotri
18. WEST BENGAL (Any two —do—)
1. Ganga Sagar
 2. Madhopur-Satara
 3. Mayapur