

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5080
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
SPECIAL DRIVE FOR PROTECTION OF TAJ TOURISTS
ANANTA NAYAK;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item regarding foreign tourists being cheated by touts in Agra as appeared in 'Indian Express' dated the May 28, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matters reported therein;
- (c) whether any special drive has been launched by the Union Government for protection of Taj tourists;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Menace of cheating of foreign tourists at the tourist spots including Taj Mahal is a law and order subject of the State/UT Administrations. However, Union Department of Tourism in order to inculcate confidence in visiting tourists, regularly takes up reported cases, with State Government concerned, on top priority basis.

(c), (d) & (e): With a view to promote India as a hassle free destination for foreign tourists, Department of Tourism has written to all the State/UT Administrations including U.P, to set up a Tourist Police Force for the safety of tourists. States of Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh have already set up such a Tourist Police.