

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2041

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006

TOURIST GUIDES AT HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed or decided to appoint tourist guides in all the historical monuments of the country;
- (b) if not, the time by which the tourist guides are likely to be appointed in all these historical monuments;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that there is spurt in the number of complaints of untoward incidents with foreign and domestic tourists due to the fake guides in such monuments; and
- (d) if so, the States where such fake tourist guides are active in large numbers?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) Ministry of Tourism has introduced a 3 tier system of guides at Regional, State and Local Levels.

The Additional Director General of Tourism has been appointed by the Central Government as the statutory authority under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 for framing and issuing guidelines, for issuance of guide license, approval and registration etc. of qualified persons selected through due process to operate in the protected monuments of national importance, vide Government of India Notification No. S.O. 73(E) Dated 24th January, 2003.

(c) &(d) Government is not aware of any increase in the complaints of harassment/untoward incidents with foreign and domestic tourists by fake guides. However, whenever a specific complaint is received action is initiated by the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism is also holding guide induction courses periodically and inducting as many guides as possible as per market needs so that the problem of fake tourists guides is effectively addressed.