

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5169
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT NEAR TAJ MAHAL
Ramshankar Dr.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any scheme for developing parking facilities and beautification at the eastern gate of the Taj Mahal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) to (c): Development, promotion and monitoring of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance to the project proposals identified in consultation with them under various schemes of the Ministry subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

The Ministry of Tourism during the year 2005-06 has sanctioned a project of 'Integrated Development of Agra - Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal Vicinity as a special destination – East Gate entry to Taj Mahal' for 848.49 lakh for: (i) Road improvement from JP crossing to Shilpgram (ii) Road Improvement Shilpgram to East Gate (iii) Revitalization of Shilpgram/including new shopping facilities (iv) Trekking route to Taj Mahal –Nature Park Improvement (v) Improvement of Visitor Approach at East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal (vi) Covering of Nalah near Eastern Gate and (vii) Landscaping and Up-gradation of facilities at Taj Khema etc. In addition, in the year 2006-07 a project of 'Integrated Development of Agra- Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal– West Gate entry to Taj Mahal' has been sanctioned for 933.40 lakh.

During the year 2009-10 'Agra Mega Project (Phase -II)' has been sanctioned by this Ministry for an amount of 1976.44 lakh including components like Construction of toilets & waiting area for drivers at Shilpgram, Taj Nature Walk & Parking etc.

Implementation of Projects near protected monuments is primarily undertaken after getting all the necessary statutory and other clearances from various agencies so as to fulfill the requirements under various Acts/ Rules/Regulations.