

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4814
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
PROMOTION OF TOURISM
Radhakrishnan Shri R.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major tourist spots in Southern Indian States/UTs including Puducherry which receive large number of domestic and international tourists;
- (b) whether Puducherry being French colony possesses serene beaches, French villas and other tourist spots, has the potential of being important tourist spots for foreigners of French origin and other tourists and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan drawn up by the Government to promote tourism in this Union Territory; and
- (d) the amount likely to be sanctioned and released for this purpose during next two years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a): The Southern Indian States/Union Territories have varied tourist destinations and products, inter-alia palaces, forts, heritage buildings, beaches, backwaters, wildlife sanctuaries, hill stations, archaeological sites, places of religious importance. The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV's) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV's) recorded in various Southern States/ Union Territories (UTs) during the year 2013 is given in Annexure-I.

(b): The French, Tamil and other Heritage buildings, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, Places of religious importance and Beaches are some of the important tourist spots of Puducherry. Puducherry, being a former French Colony, has potential to attract foreign tourists including those of French origin.

(c) & (d): The development and promotion of various tourism destinations & products is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments & Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them for each financial year, subject to availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to scheme guidelines. The list of tourism projects received from the UT Administration of Puducherry for prioritization for grant of CFA during the year 2014-15 is given in Annexure-II.

The details of tourism projects for which CFA was sanctioned/released during the last three financial years in respect of the UT of Puducherry are given in Annexure-III.