

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:487

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014

HERITAGE / ECO TOURISM

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any policy/guidelines for the promotion of Heritage and Eco-tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance/funds allocated to the States under the policy/guidelines for the purpose;
- (c) the details of proposals received from the States during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and the action taken by the Government on each of such proposals and the present status thereof;
- (d) whether the Government coordinates with institutions and other stakeholders for promotion and development of heritage and eco-tourism in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which Heritage and Eco-tourism has been developed in various States including Maharashtra during the said period?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.487 ANSWERED ON 12.08.2014 REGARDING HERITAGE/ECO-TOURISM

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism follows National Tourism Policy formulated in the year 2002, inter-alia, for the development and promotion of tourism in the country including Heritage and Eco- tourism. The policy stresses the need to conserve, preserve and undertake the integrated development of Indian Heritage for expansion of tourism in India. It also mentions that greater emphasis should be laid on Eco-tourism whose parameters should be broader than those of Nature Tourism alone. It must help in lowering poverty, in reducing unemployment, in creating new skills, in enhancing the status of woman, in preserving cultural heritage, in encouraging tribal and local crafts and in improving overall environment and facilitating growth of a more just and fair social order.

The development and promotion of tourism destinations and products including Heritage and Eco-tourism and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects including ones with a focus on Heritage and Eco -tourism, prioritized in consultation with them for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) every year subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Prioritized tourism projects that are not considered for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) during a particular year are either reprioritized for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) during the next financial year or are dropped from consideration.

The details of tourism projects including those with a focus on Heritage and Eco-tourism for which Central Financial Assistance (CFA) has been sanctioned/released to various State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations which includes the State of Maharashtra during the last three years and this financial year up to 30.06.2014 are given in Annexure.

The Ministry of Tourism holds constant dialogue with various tourism related institutions and stakeholders for drawing up strategies for development and promotion of tourism in the country including Heritage and Eco -tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism supports from time to time various events that deliberate or focus on tourism including Heritage and/or Eco-tourism.

The Ministry, inter-alia, has supported following events for promotion of Heritage and Eco-tourism:

1. Financial Support given for the Heritage Tourism Conclave organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry:

i. Heritage Tourism Conclave held on 23.11.2011 Rs.4.25 lakh

- ii. Heritage Tourism Conclave held on 28.11.2012 Rs.5.00 lakh
- iii. Heritage Tourism Conclave held on 21.02.2014 Rs.5.00 lakh

2. Financial support given for Responsible Tourism Workshops to the Ecotourism Society of India (ESO):

- i. Two day workshop on 'Practising Responsible Tourism' Rs.5.00 lakh at Guwahati, Assam held on 23-24 March, 2012
- ii. Two day workshop on 'Practising Responsible Tourism' Rs.5.00 lakh at Aurangabad, Maharashtra held on 27-28 April, 2012