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Title: Regarding need to withdraw orders for enhancing the entrance fee of historical monuments in the country for foreigners – Laid.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI) : Recently, the Government of India has enhanced the entrance fee of historical monuments including Taj Mahal (Agra) and Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu) etc. for all foreigners. Many foreigners have already protested against this decision of the Government of India, as a result, the inflow of foreign exchange is reducing day by day.

It is important that we need to preserve our cultural and historical artifacts but at the same time, we have to promote our cultural values also. But this is not the way to earn money to preserve our historical and cultural monuments. Earning of money is not the sole purpose of preserving monuments, it teaches the future generations about our past history and culture of our country.

India is ready to preserve the historical statues of Buddhas which are demolished by Afghan Government from our own money but to preserve our own historical monuments we have to enhance entrance fee for all foreigners who are visiting such historical places, monuments etc. This method of enhancing fee for Taj Mahal and Mahabalipuram etc. only for foreigners is not fair. It is bringing bad name to our country. Further, this may create reduce the number of tourists 's arrival in our country.

I, therefore, request the Union Government through you, Sir, to immediately withdraw this order.