

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1782
ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020**

OVERNIGHT STAY OF TOURISTS IN AGRA

1782. PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that very less percentage of the tourists, visiting Agra, stay overnight there;**
- (b) whether any efforts have been made to increase the overnight stay of the tourists in Agra and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to promote cultural programmes (like folk dances, music concerts etc.) to showcase the local Art and Culture to the tourist visiting Agra; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a): Data on city wise tourist visits is not maintained in Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. As per the information received from State Government of Uttar Pradesh, being favourable weather during October to March, tourists arrive in good number to visit Agra and stay there. For rest of the period due to unfavourable weather, the number of tourist visited Agra is relatively less.

(b): Development of tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD and Assistance to Central Agencies, provides central financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territories/Central Agencies including Uttar

Pradesh for development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities, at tourist destinations so as to provide an enriching tourism experience which would increase the duration of stay.

Further, as per Information received from UP State Government, to facilitate tourists in Agra, steps have been taken by Government and private stakeholders some of which are given below:

- Executing Project on revitalization of Shah Jahan Park walk way between Agra fort and Taj Mahal, revitalization of Kachhpura and MehtabBagh area and Construction of Museum.**
- Development of Taj night View point.**
- Development of River front garden at Taj Mahal.**
- Organization of “Mohhabbat the Taj” show by private stakeholders.**
- Under smart city project, beautification related work in Agra city.**

(c) & (d): Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination and as part of its on-going activities, annually releases domestic and international print, electronic and online media campaigns under the ‘Incredible India’ brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products including cultural programs in States and UTs of the country including various tourists destinations of Uttar Pradesh.

Besides, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India celebrated Paryatan Parv in October, 2019 and Bharat Parv in January, 2020 during which, local art and cultural shows from different States/UTs including those of Uttar Pradesh were organized to promote art and culture.

Further, Government of Uttar Pradesh organizes ‘Taj Mahotsav’ every year at Agra to showcase various art and culture programs.
