

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1349
ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

CHEATERS AROUND TOURIST SITES

1349. SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) con men around important tourist sites, monuments, religious and spiritual sites, railway stations etc. are a major factor dissuading foreign tourists from travelling to the interiors of the country. Whether the Government is working on any plan such as having a buddy system by employing locals to deal with this issue; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 'Public Order' and 'Police' and prevention of crime including safety & security of Tourists are State subjects. However, with efforts of Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments/Union Territory Administration of Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim have deployed tourist police, in one form or the other for the safety and security of Tourists.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, has constituted a Committee with Ministry of Tourism as a member for the purpose of setting up of Dedicated Call Centres with Police Personnel at important tourist destinations with high footfalls. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also addressed letters to Chief Secretaries/Administrators of

States/Union Territories for implementation of pilot projects on Tourist Police at important tourist places.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has taken the following measures for safety and security of tourists:

- (i) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 in 12 Languages including 10 international language, Hindi & English in February 2016, for domestic and foreign tourists to provide support service in terms of information relating to Travel in India and also offers appropriate guidance to tourists in distress while travelling in India.**
- (ii) The Ministry of Tourism along with all stakeholders, including the Tourism Departments of all States and UTs, have adopted the 'Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism' which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic right like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents in particular, women and children.**
- (iii) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification Programme, an online training programme, with the objective of creating a pool of trained professionals to facilitate tourists in destinations across the country, including in remote areas. The Facilitators shall be able to play the role of local host and in the process also ensure both actual safety and the perception of safety to both International and domestic travellers.**
