

Title: Need to grant a special package to Rajasthan for promotion of tourism in the State.

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Rajasthan occupies place of distinction on the world tourist map for its rich cultural and historical heritage. The Parliamentary Constituency which I represent in this august House consists of many prominent sites like the historical Sonar Fort of Jaisalmer which was built in the year 1156, Patwa, Havelis of Nathmalji & Salamsinghji, Parshvnath Temple and Kapavriksha (the tree renowned for granting all wishes), Temples of Keradoo in Barmer, famous Well of Batadoo, etc which are the living examples of stone carving. Similarly, the historical fort of Siwana of Mughal Era, Pall of Veer Durga Dass situated in the hills of Chhappan, Kuldra and Kharwa villages of Jaisalmer depict the glorious history of bravery of Rajputana. Besides the places of religious importance are found in abundance like Tanotrai in Jaisalmer, Dungarrai Temple in Mohangarh, eminent Baba Ram Dev Temple in Ramdeva, Jain pilgrim centres like Ladarva, Nakoda Temple, Hinglaj Temple, the famous Temple of Brahmaji in Asotra, etc. The sand dunes, Kapaleshwar of Chohten, Haldeshwar Mahadev Temple famous as mini mount Abu are all places of attraction. All these places of historical, religious and rich cultural heritage are places of much tourists interest. Domestic and foreign tourists visit these places and as per a survey 20% of foreign tourists visit Jaisalmer. However, as per ground realities, this area is neglected with regard to promotion of tourism. In case all the above sites are included in the list of Swadesh Darshan, Prasad scheme as well as Special Desert Project, the importance of these places would automatically go up and Rajasthan would get a further boost on the World Tourism Map.

I most earnestly urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism to grant package to Rajasthan for Tourism.