

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:567
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India continues to lag behind in attracting tourists as compared to countries like China and Thailand;
- (b) if so, whether a Tourist Seminar was held at New Delhi in which the Home Minister released a book on poverty reduction through tourism in the month of March 2001; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote eco-tourism in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE: (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a), (b) and (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.567 TO ANSWERED ON 26.4.2001 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

(a): The International Tourist Arrival in China, Thailand and India during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 as indicated in the following table reveals that China and Thailand attract more tourists than India.

Year Tourist Arrivals (Million)

	China	Thailand	India	
1997	23.8	7.3	2.4	
1998	25.1	7.8	2.4	
1999	27.0	8.7	2.5	

(b): Hon'ble Home Minister released a book titled "Poverty Eradication and Economic Development Through Tourism" in the month of March, 2001 at a function arranged by a leading tourism and travel group.

(c): The Central Department of Tourism promotes Eco-tourism in the country by extending Central Financial Assistance to Eco-friendly tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. Eco tourism attractions are given wide publicity in the country as well as in overseas markets to attract tourists. The Central Department of Tourism has formulated "Eco-Tourism Policy and Guidelines" for creating awareness among all the stakeholders involved in this activity for achieving sustainable tourism development in the country. Policy and guidelines have been endorsed for implementation by all the State Governments/Union Territories.