

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3244

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000

EXPLOITATION OF TOURISTS ON MILLENNIUM FIRST SUNRISE IN KATCHAL ISLAND

CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;M. JAGANNATH;SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Katchal Island was developed as tourist destination to welcome the new millennium Sunrise;
- (b) If so, the amount spent thereon;
- (c) The earnings made from tourists;
- (d) whether India missed out on the tourist opportunity of the millennium by failing to explore the first dawn sunrise in the Katchal Island to attract foreign tourists; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for failure to attract substantial tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE
(SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a), (b), (c) : Katchal Island in the Nicobar Group of Islands, is a restricted area and is also considered ecologically fragile. To get publicity associated with the Millennium Sunrise, special permission for regulated visitors for 6 days from 29.12.99 to 3.1.2000 were obtained. An amount of Rs.25 lakhs has been spent on various arrangements. It was a limited publicity initiative and because of the constraints explained, the question of earnings from tourists did not arise.

(d): No, Sir. The Govt. opened the Katchal Island, a restricted area in Andaman & Nicobar Island only for a period of 6 days from 29th Dec, 1999 to 3rd January 2000 for the visitors to give them an opportunity to view the first sunrise of the New Millennium.

(e): Does not arise.