

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3646  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001  
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM  
M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

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

- (a) whether the hospitality of major EIH Limited, formerly East India Hotels Limited has sought concerted efforts from the tourism industry as reported in the Pioneer dated July 25, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the kind of help sought by EIH; and
- (d) the response of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) : No, Sir.

(c) & (d): Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from M/s. EIH Limited regarding concerted efforts from the tourism industry. However, the Department of Tourism has taken up the following matters as reported:

`Visa on arrival` issue has been taken up for inter-alia consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The traffic rights with respect of Civil Aviation are governed by the principle of reciprocity and bilateral agreement which is an internationally accepted practice followed world over. There has been an increase in the `Air Seat Capacity` in the last one year. To further improve the services at the airports, the Department of Tourism has installed Touch Screen Information Kiosks in the four metropolitan cities and as a pilot project hotel reservation at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

The question of `Rationalisation of Taxes` in the tourism sector has been discussed at the State Tourism Ministers Conference, The Transport Development Council, The Regional Meeting of the Inter-State Council and at various other fora. However, no consensus has been possible so far with the State Governments.