

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2403
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
FOREIGN TOURISTS VISITED TO NORTH EAST
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various North-Eastern States have urged the Government to allow foreigners a free access to these States in order to boost tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the estimated number of foreign tourists that visited various States of North-East during each of the last three years;
- (d) the total revenue earned as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to attract more foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. Various states in North East Region have requested Central Government to withdraw the restricted/protected area regime and to allow foreigners free access to these states for development of tourism. Their requests were examined and appropriate decision were taken. Restricted area regimes from Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura were withdrawn on the requests of the State Governments. In a recent review of the Protected Area Permit (PAP) Regime further relaxation were made and foreigners were allowed to visit four additional districts in Nagaland.

(c): Estimated foreign tourist visitors to North Eastern states are as under:

1998 1999 2000

Arunachal Pradesh	124	48	2750
Assam	631	596	5554
Manipur	261	277	429
Mizoram	126	216	235
Meghalaya	1055	1971	2327
Nagaland	116	119	124
Tripura	596	335	348

(d): The information will be collected from the North Eastern states and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e): The steps taken/proposed to be taken for attracting more tourists include publicity and promotion in overseas market through Government of India tourist offices abroad. Booths were provided in India Pavilion in World Trade Market, London and Internationale Tourismus Borse, Berlin free of cost for participation of North Eastern States. In addition, restricted/Protected area regime is reviewed from time to time and relaxations are made keeping in view security aspects. A number of places of tourists' interest can be visited by foreigners after obtaining permits from the competent authorities.