

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:38

ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002

DECLINE IN FOREIGN TOURISTS

AMBATI BRAHMANIAH;BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;GADDE
RAMAMOHAN;JASKAUR MEENA;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAM SINGH KASWAN;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Foreign tourist arrivals still below pre-Sept 11 levels` appearing in Hindustan Times dated November 6, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have made any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government to attract foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The news-item makes a comparison of foreign tourist arrivals in the country during the period January-October` 2002 with the corresponding period of the year 2000 & 2001. The estimated foreign tourist arrivals during the period January to October 2002 & the corresponding figures for the same period of the years 2000 & 2001 are as follows:-

Foreign Tourist Arrivals % Change					
Month	2000	2001	2002	2002/00	2002/01
January	253666	283750	228150	-10.1	-19.6
February	257403	262306	241133	-6.3	-8.1
March	234606	248965	216839	-7.6	-12.9
April	188132	185338	155378	-17.4	-16.2
May	139575	151098	132988	-4.7	-12.0
June	161613	176716	143100	-11.5	-19.0
July	212949	224432	186482	-12.4	-16.9
August	186843	196517	161477	-13.6	-17.8
Sept.	180070	162326	151721	-15.7	-6.5
October	230978	181605	212191	-8.1	16.8
Total	2045835	2073053	1829459	-10.6	-11.8

The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the period January-October 2002 & January-October 2001 are 2175.94 million US\$ and 2490.64 million US\$ respectively showing a negative growth of 12.6%.

(c) and (d): The Department of Tourism has set up a Special Tourism Task Force with the objective of involving all segments of Travel and Tourism Industry to join hands for, aggressive promotion and marketing of tourism to India and improve the tourist arrivals in the country. The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country. - Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity. - Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination. - Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements. - Creation of world class infrastructure. - Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes. - Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism. - Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration good - governance and also of social and cultural values. - Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate - growth in domestic tourism.