

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2991
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
EFFECT OF BIRD FLU ON TOURISM
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

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

- (a) whether Bird Flu has an adverse effect on the tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the financial loss suffered by the tourism industry as a result thereof; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/being taken in this regard by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): No, Sir. It did not have any adverse impact on foreign tourist inflow to the country, which registered a growth of 14.4% during January – April, 2006.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): On Press reporting of outbreak of Bird Flu in India, the overseas India tourism offices were advised to have regular interaction with media/travel trade and to reinforce the image of India as a safe tourist destination. The information was also posted on the website of the Department of tourism. The Press in India was also suitably briefed. The World Tourism Organisation (WTO), of which India is an active member, also advised that there was no threat to tourists, and no case for restricting travel on account of Bird Flu. The WTO, however, advised the tourists traveling to flu-infected localities to avoid contact with live birds.