

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:351

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007

AVAILABILITY OF HOTEL ROOMS

Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lags behind its South Asian competitors in terms of availability and affordability of hotel rooms as well as number of tourists visiting the country as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 29,2007;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a), (b) and (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a), (b), and (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 351 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2007 REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF HOTEL ROOMS

(a) and (b): The figure for foreign tourist arrivals (provisional) for 2006 is 4.43 million which is 13% more than the previous year. Similarly, the percentage increase in foreign tourist arrivals in 2005 was 13.2% over 2004 as compared to a global increase of 4%. Even the foreign tourist arrivals from the South East Asia region to India has shown an increase of 15.4% in 2005 as compared to 2004. As such there has been a shortage of hotel accommodation in the country. As per the study conducted by FICCI, the current demand and supply gap in the hotel rooms all over the country is 1, 50,000 rooms.

(c): Ministry of Tourism has been in regular touch with the State Governments and the various Land Owning Agencies for creation of land banks. These agencies have been asked to allocate land on joint venture/ revenue sharing basis and also to provide incentives and benefits to facilitate the growth of the accommodation sector in the country. They have also been requested to increase the FAR/FSI in respect of the existing hotels. Ministry of Tourism has floated new schemes for bringing the unorganised accommodation sector into the approved category and guidelines have been finalized to approve the following units: - Time Share Accommodation, Guest Houses, Apartment Hotel, Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments. In the budget proposal 2007-08, the Ministry of Finance has granted a 5 year Tax Holiday to hotels of 2, 3, and 4 star categories set up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.