

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:927
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited various religious and devotional destinations in different States each year during the last three years till date;
- (b) the hospitality and healthcare facilities available at these destinations;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector to invest in providing hospitality services including accommodation at reasonable costs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The present system of collection of statistics on domestic and foreign tourists does not provide information on the number of such visitors to various religious and devotional destinations in various States.

Development and maintenance of facilities for tourists at tourist destinations, including those of hospitality and healthcare, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism related projects.

Provision of hospitality services, including accommodation at reasonable cost, is mainly a private sector activity. To facilitate augmentation of budget category accommodation for tourists, the Government has asked all the State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels, especially in the budget category. They have also been advised to follow investor-friendly land policies, adopt single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allot sites on revenue sharing basis, grant extra FAR/FSI for hotels, permit extra commercial usage in the hotels etc. so that Budget Hotels are promoted. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of Tourism has floated schemes for the approval of Guest Houses and Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishments.