

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:58
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
HARRASSMENT OF FOREIGN TOURISTS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of the Tourism Secretaries of all the States in view of rise in the cases of assault and harassment of foreign tourists in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has advised the States to recruit ex-servicemen for stepping up the safety of tourists particularly foreigners in the country;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of States thereto;
- (e) whether there is steep fall in arrival of foreign tourists due to such incidents; and
- (f) if so, the facts thereof and further steps to be taken to ensure that such foreign tourists are not harassed in any way?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLIES TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.58 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.02.2008 REGARDING HARRASSMENT OF FOREIGN TOURISTS.

(a) to (d): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehavior with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. During this meeting the feasibility of deploying the ex-servicemen as Tourist Wardens in States and Union Territories was also discussed. It was emphasised that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same.

(e) & (f): The foreign tourist arrival for the month of January 2008 has shown an increase of 9.9 % over the same period of 2007.