

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3116

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004

AMENDMENT IN CHARTER POLICY

Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing charter policy to allow foreign tourists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Ministry of Civil Aviation thereto;
- (c) the number of foreign tourists the Government is expecting in winter; and
- (d) the number of chartered flights from across the globe sought permission to bring foreign tourists alongwith steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure for such chartered flights and foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b): Tourist Charter guidelines have been amended recently permitting operation of `Inclusive Tour Charters` with no limitations on frequency, size of the aircraft and destinations. Indian passport holders have also been allowed to travel on inclusive tour charters. There are no restrictions on frequency of flight and size of the aircraft in respect of outbound tour charters provided the concerned outbound tour operator also organizes inbound charters with 2:1 tourist ratio between inbound & outbound operations. Presently there is no proposal to further amend the guidelines.

(c): During the last 11 months of 2004, there has been an increase of 24.0% in foreign tourist arrivals as compared to the corresponding period of 2003.

(d): For the season October 2004 to May 2005, so far Directorate General of Civil Aviation has permitted 975 charter flights to Goa, 21 charter flights to Trivandrum, 26 charter flights to Delhi and 44 tourist charter flights to Amritsar (upto December 2004). As far as infrastructure is concerned, tourist charter flights are permitted to all airports subject to the availability of customs and immigration facilities.