

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1904  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004  
DEVELOPMENT OF HIMALAYAS AS TOURIST DESTINATIONS  
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been any growth in inbound tourists to India;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to help industry to sustain its growth;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote Himalayas as a tourist destination;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to promote tourism in Himalayas with China and Nepal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a): There has been an estimated growth of 24% in foreign tourists arrivals to India during the year 2004(January-November) as compared to same period of the year 2003.
- (b): A number of steps have been taken by the Government to sustain the growth of tourism in India and the matter has been taken up with concerned agencies for liberalization of visa regime; augmenting air seat capacity and air connectivity; setting up of budget hotels; security to the tourist, etc. besides providing assistance to State Governments for infrastructure and project development.
- (c): The Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices undertakes various promotional activities for promoting the tourism products and tourist destinations in the country, including the Himalayan Region. Himalayas are being promoted through publicity and collateral material including brochures, CD etc.
- (d) and (e): An agreement on co-operation in the field of Tourism had been signed between India and China during the year 2002, which inter-alia includes promoting the development of tourism between the two countries.