

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:655  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010  
FACILITIES TO FOREIGN TOURISTS  
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a): whether the Government is contemplating to offer special facilities to attract foreign tourists;and

(b): if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b): The Government has taken several steps to promote tourism to the country. These include liberalizing the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme for service providers promoting India, organizing Road Shows in important tourist generating markets overseas, arranging familiarisation tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives to keep them updated on safety / security conditions in the country, media campaigns in the print, electronic, online and outdoor media and a "Visit India 2009" scheme, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India. The scheme has been extended up to 31st March 2010. Recently Government of India has decided to introduce Visa -on Arrival scheme for tourists from five countries viz. Singapore, Finland, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Japan on a pilot basis for a period of one year.