

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3383
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
DECLINE IN FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a sharp decline in tourists inflow from Pakistan, Japan, UK and Bangladesh during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the tightening of visa norms are responsible for this drop in tourists inflow; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to encourage tourists from these countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) to (d): The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India from Pakistan, Japan, UK, Bangladesh during 2007, 2008 and 2009 are given below.

Country	FTAs in India		
	2007	2008	2009

Pakistan	106283	85529	45628
Japan	145538	145352	124219
UK	796191	776530	748765
Bangladesh	480240	541884	458063

Data on nationality-wise FTAs in India during current year is not available.

The decline in FTAs in India from these countries may be due to various reasons including the global financial slowdown, terrorist attacks, H1N1 pandemic, etc.

The steps taken by the Union Government to increase the number of tourists in the country include development of tourism infrastructure under the Scheme of Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, Incredible India publicity campaigns in international and domestic markets, introduction of Market Development Assistance for Medical, Wellness and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Tourism, and introduction of visa on arrival for tourists from five countries, namely Singapore, Finland, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Japan on a pilot basis for a period of one year.