

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5190  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010  
TRAVEL AGENCIES  
Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

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

- (a) the number of registered/licensed travel agencies in operation in the country which offers attractive packaged tours for foreign countries, State – wise;
- (b) whether the assured facilities are not being provided by the operators in foreign countries to the Indian tourists who avail of such packages and they are being harassed there;
- (c) if so, the details and facts in this regard;
- (d) whether many travel agencies are also being operated in the metropolitan cities who have not being given the license but only authorized to operate packaged tours with clearance of visas, etc.;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against these unauthorized vendors to save tourist from their clutches?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends approval of recognition to service providers of Travel Trade viz., Inbound Tour Operator & Travel Agent. The aims & objectives of the scheme for recognition are to encourage quality standard by service providers and to promote tourism in India. This is a voluntary scheme, open to all bonafide service providers. At present, there are 453 travel agencies approved by Ministry of Tourism in the country.

Ministry of Tourism does not have any guidelines for the approval of outbound tour operators, who are servicing Indian tourists visiting foreign countries. The data on such agencies is not maintained in the Ministry of Tourism.

(f): As and when such deficiencies in services of any service provider are brought to the notice of Ministry of Tourism, appropriate action is initiated.