

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2010
TOURISM IN NORTH EASTERN REGION
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign tourists who visited the North-Eastern States during the last two years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has taken steps to create a barrier free environment for growth of tourism in the North-Eastern region; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.360 ANSWERED ON 03.12.2010 REGARDING TOURISM IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION.

(a): The number of Foreign Tourist Visits, to the North - Eastern States during 2008, 2009 and 2010 (January - April, Provisional) is 47561, 47658 and 20396 respectively.

(b) and (c): Development and promotion of tourism including creation of barrier free environment is primarily undertaken by the State Governments in the North - Eastern Region. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments for tourism projects under the scheme of 'Product/ Infrastructure development of tourism destinations/ circuits' on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

To boost tourism in the North Eastern Region (NER), Government of India has given relaxation to its employees to travel by air and convert one block of Home Town Leave Travel Concession (LTC) into LTC for destinations in the NER. Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regimes in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim have also been relaxed.

Other measures to promote tourism in NER include additional incentives in Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme, Organization of Road Shows, launch of publicity campaigns through print and electronic media, etc.