

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3989
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
FOREIGN TOURISTS
Dhurve Jyoti

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of foreign and domestic tourists visiting the rural tourist spots in the country has declined sharply;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of domestic and foreign tourists who have visited rural tourist spots during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend some concessions to the foreign tourists who avail the facilities in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the flow of domestic as well as foreign tourists in the rural tourists spots?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism does not compile data of tourists visiting rural tourist spots separately. However, the total number of domestic tourist visits (DTVs) and foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to different states and UTs during 2008, 2009 and 2010 are as given below:

(In million)

Year	DTVs	FTVs
2008	563.03	14.38
2009	668.80	14.37
2010	740.21	17.85

(c) to (e): The steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism to promote rural tourism include providing financial assistance to State/UT Governments for infrastructure development and capacity building under its Rural Tourism scheme, publicity under the Incredible India campaign, and facilitating participation of artisans from rural tourism sites in major domestic and international tourism events/fairs.