

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4769
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009
PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN ORISSA
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the inflow of tourists both domestic and foreign has drastically reduced due to fall in number of Tigers and other animals in the country including Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2008 increased by 5.6% as compared to 2007. However, the number of FTAs during January-June 2009 declined by 9.3% over the corresponding period of 2008. The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial melt-down and terrorist activities. Ministry of Tourism does not compile State-level estimates of FTAs.

The number of domestic tourist visits to all States/ UTs in India, including Orissa, increased by 6.9% during 2008 as compared to 2007. The figures of domestic tourist visits for 2009 are not available.

(c): Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects.

To increase the number of FTAs, Ministry of Tourism, through its Indiatourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical, Convention & Conference and Domestic Tourism in the country.