

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1756
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012
TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE IN LADAKH
Khan Shri Hassan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of tourists to Ladakh of Jammu and Kashmir State increasing unexpectedly;
- (b) if so, whether the Government plan to improve the tourist infrastructures to meet the high flow of tourists in the region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to provide free loans to locals in Ladakh for running hotels, guest houses, camping sights etc. and also for running taxi cabs to meet the seasonal rushes?

Answer

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

- (a): The tourist arrivals to Ladakh increased from 76055 in 2010 to 179204 in 2011.
- (b)and(c): Development and promotion of tourism, including improving tourist infrastructure, is primarily undertaken by the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments, for improvement of tourism related infrastructure, on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter- se-priority. During the 11th Plan (upto 31st December, 2011), 135 projects of amount `363.41 crore have been sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir spent an amount of `29.84 crore under the State Plan, during 2010-11 and 2011- 12, for development of infrastructure related to tourism in Ladakh Region.
- (d): There is no such proposal for providing free loans to locals in Ladakh. However, financial assistance in shape of incentive is being provided for encouraging private investment to boost tourism, generate employment and provide better facilities to the tourists. These incentives include capital subsidy on construction/upgradation of hotels /guest houses and on purchase of equipment of adventure sports. Interest Subsidy is also available on loans raised by tour operators/taxi operators on purchase of vehicles/tourist cabs by replacement.