

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:415

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFE AND HONOURABLE TOURISM

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Naik Shri Shripad Yesso

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Code of Conduct for 'Safe and Honorable Tourism' has been adopted by various stakeholders for enabling timely detection and reporting of crimes against tourists, especially women and children;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) the action plan initiated alongwith implementation/compliance status by various stakeholders indicating the mechanism for the purpose;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to enforce implementation of code by the stakeholders alongwith the progress made in curbing crimes against tourists;
- (e) whether there is a proposal for round the clock vigil by ex-servicemen on the beaches frequently visited by tourists; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.415 ANSWERED ON 04.05.2012 REGARDING CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SAFE AND HONOURABLE TOURISM

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Tourism and various stakeholders in the Tourism Industry adopted the Code of Conduct for 'Safe and Honourable Tourism' on 1st July 2010 to strengthen the critical pillar of 'Suraksha' (safety) for the tourists. The main objectives of this Code, inter alia, are:

I. Encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents i.e., people and communities who may be impacted by tourism in some way.

II. Aid the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation like sex tourism, prostitution, pornography and other forms of sexual assaults and molestations and safeguard safety of persons, in particular women & children.

III. Enhance prevention of activities like forced or involuntary drug use, manipulated and incorrect information, cultural and social intolerance which could increase vulnerability to crime.

(c) & (d): The Code is not a legal instrument but a set of guidelines for voluntary adoption by the Tourism Industry. The Ministry of Tourism has conducted a number of workshops to sensitize various stakeholders about the Code. The Ministry has also included adoption of the Code as one of the criteria for approving tour operators, travel agents and classification of hotels & other types of accommodation.

(e) & (f): As 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects, the primary responsibility for prevention of crime against tourists rests with respective State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism has advised them to deploy Tourist Police. The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the Directorate General of Resettlements and Ministries of Defence and Home has also formulated guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organisation(s) comprising Ex-servicemen of India. These guidelines have been forwarded to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for necessary action.