

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4828
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012
MEETING OF ASEAN INDIA TOURISM MINISTERS
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the discussions held in meeting of the ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers in the recent past;
- (b) whether India have signed any MoU with ASEAN to cooperate in facilitating travel and tourists visit;
- (c) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which tourism industry is likely to be benefitted by the said MoU?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a)and (b): The 3rd Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers was held in Manado, Indonesia on 11-12 January, 2012. During this meeting India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Governments of the Member States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on strengthening Tourism Cooperation.

(c): The main objectives of the MoU, interalia, include:

i. cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visits; ii. further strengthen close tourism partnership; iii. enhance mutual assistance and human resource development for tourism sector; and iv. take necessary steps for exploring avenues of cooperation and sharing of information.

(d): ASEAN is an important tourism generating source market for India. Similarly, India has also now emerged as an important source market for the ASEAN Countries. Considering the mutual benefits, MoU between India and ASEAN is expected to create an institutional mechanism for enhancing cooperation in the tourism sector.