

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
LOSS OF TOURISM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Tourism has been effected due to poor health conditions in India;
- (b) if so, whether tourist-arrival for the last six months has been low as compared to the last six months of the previous year; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make India a tourist attractive place?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during the last six months, i.e. May-October 2009, is 2.19 million, which is 2.4% less than the FTAs during the corresponding period of 2008. The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including H1N1 pandemic, global slowdown,etc.

(c): The steps taken by the Government to make India an attractive tourist destination include:

- # Development of infrastructure at tourist sites with the cooperation of other Ministries/ Departments and State/ UT Governments;
- # Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure, particularly that for budget hotels;
- # Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air seat capacity and improving road infrastructure at major tourist destinations;
- # Launching social awareness campaigns like 'Atithi Devo Bhavah';and
- # Increasing availability of skilled manpower for the hospitality sector.