

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
EFFECT OF SWINE FLU ON TOURISM
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tourism industry has been affected by the disease 'Swine Flu';
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India increased by 5.6% in 2008 over 2007. However, during January to October, 2009, a decline of 7% in FTAs has been observed over the corresponding period of 2008. This decline may be due to various reasons including H1N1 pandemic, global slowdown, etc.

(c): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken a series of actions to limit the spread of the disease and to mitigate its impact. These actions include:

Airport, Seaport and Border Surveillance

Community Surveillance

Enhancing Diagnostic Capacity

Improving Hospital Preparedness

Stockpiling of Anti-viral drugs and Personal Protective Equipments

Monitoring, etc.

In addition, 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.