

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:186

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

TRANSIT VISA FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India commands a modest share of 0.6 per cent of the world's tourist arrivals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning a transit visa for 48 to 72 hours to encourage foreign tourists to plan a quick stopover in India as per the demand of Indian Association of Tour Operators;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to become operational;and
- (e) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase India's share of international tourist arrivals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI)

- (a) and (b) The share of India in World Tourist Arrivals during 2012 was 0.64% (Provisional).
- (c) and (d) The Government of India already has a scheme of issuing transit visa valid for direct transit, wherein the period of stay in transit cannot be normally more than 3 days for each visit.
- (e) Promotion of India Tourism destinations abroad is an ongoing process. This is undertaken through participation in exhibitions, promotional campaigns, organization of Familiarization trips, dissemination of information brochures, CDs etc.

Further, as a facilitative measure to attract more foreign tourists to India, the Government launched a Scheme of 'Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA)' from January 2010 for the citizens of five countries, viz. Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore, visiting India for tourism purposes. The Government has extended this Scheme for the citizens of six more countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos and Myanmar from January 2011. TVOA facility is available at the international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.