

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:147

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013

VISIT OF TOURISTS

Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) and the number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV) in the country, State/UT-wise along with the earnings of foreign exchange therefrom vis-a-vis the target fixed in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, country and destination-wise including Shilp Gram Utsavs;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the growth percentage in the tourists inflow into the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with its likely impact on foreign exchange earnings and employment in the tourism sector;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide State specific special package to Himachal Pradesh and other States on the lines of the North-Eastern States and to provide group travel package to boost tourist inflow into the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Government has been successful in achieving the target fixed for tourist inflow along with the further measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost tourist inflow into the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. +147 ANSWERED ON 16.08.2013 REGARDING VISIT OF TOURISTS

(a): The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV) to different States/Union Territories (UTs), during 2010, 2011 and 2012, compiled on the basis of data received from States/UTs, are given in Annexure I. This information for the year 2013 is not available.

The foreign exchange earnings (FEEs) from tourism for the country as a whole are estimated at Rs.64,889 crores (Provisional) in 2010, Rs.77,591 crores (Provisional) in 2011, Rs.94,487 crores (Provisional) in 2012 and Rs.50,448 crores (Provisional) in January – June, 2013. State/UT-wise estimates of FEEs from tourism are not compiled. The Ministry of Tourism does not compile country-wise and destination-wise number of domestic and foreign tourist visits, including to Shilp Gram Utsavs. Though no specific year – wise or State/UT – wise targets were set for the Tourism Sector, the 11th Five Year Plan had set a target of 10 million international visitors by 2011. For Domestic Tourism, the target to be achieved in 2010 and 2011 was fixed at 725 million and 812 million, respectively.

(b) and (c): Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs), which are different from FTVs, and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) have registered a positive growth during 2010, 2011 and 2012. The number of FTAs and FEEs along with the growth rate over previous year is given below:

Year	FTAs (in million)	Growth Rate in FTAs	FEEs (in Rs. Crore)	Growth Rate in FEEs
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2010	5.78	11.8%	64,889	20.8
2011	6.31	9.2%	77,591	19.6
2012	6.58	4.3%	94,487	21.8

There is no decline in FTAs in absolute terms. The decline in the growth rate of FTAs may be due to various reasons including global financial slowdown, H1N1 pandemic and terrorist attack. There is no overall decline trend visible in FEEs either in absolute terms or in the growth rate. As per the 2nd Tourism Satellite Account of India 2009-10 and subsequent estimations, the contribution of Tourism

towards employment generation in the country during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 was 10.2%, 10.8% (Provisional) and 11.5% (Provisional), respectively.

(d): There is no proposal for providing a special package to the State of Himachal Pradesh or other States on the lines of North Eastern States. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects, identified in consultation with them, on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. With a view to encouraging foreign tourist arrivals, the Government has decided to provide collective landing permits. According to the revised procedure, foreign tourists in groups of four or more arriving by air or sea, sponsored by Indian travel agencies approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and with a pre-drawn itinerary may be granted collective landing permit for a period not exceeding 60 days, with multiple entry facilities to enable them to visit neighbouring country. In order to avail of this facility the tourists or travel agencies concerned shall mandatorily fill in the applications online on website www.indianvisaonline.gov.in. A complete list of group members along with printed visa applications and their itinerary should be submitted by the tourists or travel agencies to the FRRO/FRO concerned, 72 hour in advance. The tourist or travel agencies shall also give an undertaking to conduct the group as per the itinerary and extend a further assurance that no individual would be allowed to drop out from the group at any place.

(e): For the Tourism Sector, the 11th Five Year Plan had set a target of 10 million international visitors by 2011, whereas the actual foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2011 were 6.31 million. For Domestic Tourism, the target to be achieved in 2010 and 2011 was fixed at 725 million and 812 million respectively, whereas domestic tourist visits during 2010 and 2011 were 748 million and 865 million, respectively.

To boost tourism, the Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand- line, to promote the various tourism destinations and products of the country. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through Indiatourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential. These promotional activities include offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry; publication of brochures; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; organising road shows, workshops and participation in travel fairs and exhibitions.

Other efforts made by Ministry of Tourism to boost tourist inflow include promoting Safe & Honourable tourism, improving the facilities for foreign and domestic tourists, creation/upgradation of tourism infrastructure, wayside amenities, providing last mile connectivity, increasing the availability of budget accommodation and trained manpower, etc.