

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2523
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
RELIGIOUS PILGRIM TOURISM
Antony Shri Anto;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is steep rise in religious/pilgrim tourism in the country during the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, during the last three years spot-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to provide safety and facilities to people at the pilgrim centres across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data of tourists visiting Religious/ Pilgrims spots. However, the number of Domestic and Foreign Tourists Visits to the States/Union Territories during 2010, 2011 and 2012 are given in Annexure.

(c) and (d): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crime against tourists/foreign tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

In order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/Union Territories. Some of the State Governments have deployed tourist police in one form or the other.

Further, the guidelines for formation of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) comprising ex-servicemen, formulated by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, Home and Directorate General of Re-settlements have been forwarded to the State Governments/UT Administrations for necessary action.

In addition, the Union Ministry of Tourism along with stakeholders has adopted the 'Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism' which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents in particular, women and children.

Safety and Security of Tourists was one of the agenda items for the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held on 18th July, 2013. Regarding safety of tourists, following resolutions were adopted during the conference:

- i. the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women;
- ii. the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will consider setting up of a special force such as a Tourist Police, where it does not exist at present, either by taking few companies on deputation from the Police Department or by engaging Ex-Servicemen or Home Guards.
- iii. the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will run a mass awareness campaign called "I respect women".

Development and Promotion of tourism are primarily the responsibilities of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to them for various tourism projects identified in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, inter - se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.