

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3065
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015
IMPACT OF SWINE FLU ON TOURISM
Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries have issued any advisory to their citizens to exercise high degree of caution against the increasing number of cases of swine flu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this epidemic has any adverse impact on the inflow of tourists to India along with the estimated decline and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has sought inputs from the health ministry for an assessment of the situation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of persons died including foreign tourists due to this epidemic?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) and (b): In view of an increase in cases of swine flu (H1N1 virus) in India, some countries like UK, Germany, France, Italy, Russia etc. have advised their citizens to take precautions and preventive measures while travelling to India. Ukraine has recommended to their citizens to withhold travelling to India till the situation stabilises and has advised them to consult medical institutions for vaccinations and other preventive measures prior to visiting India.
- (c): The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) to India have continued to increase. In January 2015, the total FTAs to India were 7.90 lakh as compared to 760 lakh during January 2014, showing a growth of 4.0%.
- (d) and (e): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has been consulted and has informed that Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to take prompt measures for preventing the spread of H1N1 virus and for diagnosis, case management and treatment of the patients. However, the Central Government has been pro-active in assisting the State Governments to manage the current increase in cases and the situation is being monitored regularly by MOHFW.