

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:86

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015

Safety and Security for Women Tourists

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of cheating and other offensive incidents against domestic and foreign tourists especially women tourists has been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases filed during the last three years along with the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety and security of women tourists;
- (c) the impact of the recent incidents against women on international tourist arrival along with the countries where the number of foreign women tourists is on the decline;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up any monitoring mechanism and has any plan to provide GPS enabled SIMs to foreign travellers during their visit to various parts of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this monitoring system is likely to be established?

Answer

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

(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.*86 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2015 REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN TOURISTS.

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data regarding crime against foreign or domestic tourists. However, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs has started collecting data on crime against foreign tourists since 2014. The information regarding State/Union Territory-wise cases registered, cases charge sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge sheeted and persons convicted under rape, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty and insult to the modesty of women under crime against foreign tourists during the year 2014 is at Annexure.

The steps taken by Ministry of Tourism to ensure the safety and security of tourists including foreign tourists are as below:

- i) The Ministry of Tourism, on a pilot basis, has set up the 'Incredible India Help Line' to guide the tourists.
- ii) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Hon'ble Tourism, which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.
- iii) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity, if any.
- v) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has also posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.
- vi) Guidelines on Safety & Security of Tourist for State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for Travellers have been formulated in August 2014 and circulated to all State Governments and Union Territories. These guidelines have been issued with an objective to help/provide direction to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in formulating guidelines for tourists safety and security. The guidelines also includes 'tips for travelers' and cover the following:

- â€¢ Precautions to be taken during pre-travel arrangements.
- â€¢ Travel information on calamities/situations by the State Government.
- â€¢ Identifying, locating tourists in times of emergency.
- â€¢ Government communication and inter agency coordination.
- â€¢ Regulations of service providers (Transport Services, Accommodation Sector).
- â€¢ Regulating leisure and recreational services including adventure sports.
- â€¢ Address insolvencies and dispute settlement.
- â€¢ Enforcement.

(c): The overall foreign tourist arrivals into India during the last 3 years have shown positive growth. The details of number of foreign tourists who visited India during last 3 years are given below:

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Year Foreign Tourist Arrivals Growth Rate (%)

2012 6577745 4.3

2013 6967601 5.9

2014 7679099 10.2

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The major countries from where the arrival of foreign women tourists was on decline during the year 2014 are Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, Afghanistan, Japan and Republic of Korea.

(d) and (e): Presently there is no such proposal to set up monitoring mechanism or provide GPS enabled SIMs to foreign travellers during their visits to various parts of the country.
