

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1052
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015
Controversy over Taj Mahal
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether controversy on Taj Mahal affects the tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the stand of the Government on controversy of Taj Mahal on religious ground;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to keep Taj Mahal free of controversy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Taj Mahal, a centrally protected monument, is looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), who have stated that they have no such information available with them. However, there has been no decrease in the number of total tourist foot-falls in the past two years. 6072501 number of domestic and foreign tourist visits have been recorded in 2014 against 5835342 in 2013.

No guidelines have been issued by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on the issue pertaining to religious grounds.
