

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:110
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014
FOREIGN TOURISTS INFLOW
Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several countries have issued advisories to their citizens particularly women tourists to avoid travelling to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the tourism sector in the country; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of tourists and boost tourists inflow in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b): Travel advisories are issued by various countries from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take precautions while travelling to other countries /certain areas in other countries for various reasons. Certain countries including the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France have advised women tourists to exercise caution while travelling in India, particularly alone and at night.

During the year 2013, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) to India were 6.97 million with a growth of 5.9%, as compared to FTAs of 6.58 million during 2012.

FTAs during the months of January to May 2014 were 3.05 million, with a growth of 6.6% compared to 2.86 million FTAs from January to May 2013.

(c): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is the primary 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. The State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

The measures taken by the Ministry of Tourism towards safety and security of domestic and foreign tourists including women travellers are :

(1) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) on a pilot basis.

(2) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Honorable Tourism which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to the basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.

(3) Letters have been written to all the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations to take immediate effective steps for ensuring 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.

(4) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving international tourists, Ministry of Tourism has posted an advisory on its website: www.incredibleindia.org

(5) The Safety and Security of Tourists was the focus of the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held on 18th July, 2013. Regarding safety of tourists, the 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".

(6) Recognising the need to sensitise the masses and the stakeholders of the tourism industry to the traditional Indian values of the concept 'Atithidevo Bhava', the Ministry of Tourism also runs Social Awareness Campaigns on leading television channels in the country on themes related to, inter-alia, behavior towards tourists.