

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4668
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
IMPACT OF TOURISM ON ECOLOGY OF LADAKH
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ladakh area of Jammu & Kashmir is becoming a tourist hot-spot and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the inner line permits to visit certain areas of Ladakh has been removed for Indian citizens;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the harm caused to the fragile ecology of Ladakh through excessive pollution by tourists;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the other steps taken to regulate the number of tourists in order to preserve the ecology of the said area?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. As per the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the tourists flow, both domestic and foreign, to Ladakh has steadily increased during the last ten years. The number of tourists has increased from 35091 in 2004 to 137702 in 2013.
- (b) and (c): Indian citizens are allowed to visit certain areas after verification of their identity such as passport, driving license, services identity card, PAN card, Aadhar Card, Smart Card, Election ID Card. The identification is treated as an Inner Line Permit.
- (d) and (e): As per the State Government of J&K, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council is keeping a strict vigil on the Development of the Tourism Industry.
- (f): As informed by the State Government, tourists arrivals have not reached an extent that requires regulations.