

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:499
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN TOURISTS
Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of rise in crime against foreign women tourists reported in the country, the Government is considering deployment of female police personnel in tourist areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether tourist assistance cells/booths manned by female police personnel are also proposed to be set up at the tourist centres/spots to facilitate women tourists including foreigners and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken to ensure the safety and security of women tourists, particularly those visiting the country from abroad and the results thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.499 ANSWERED ON 12.08.2014 REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN TOURISTS

(a) and (b): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. 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. No specific suggestion of deployment of women police personnel in tourist areas has been sent to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(c): The measures taken by the Ministry of Tourism towards safety and security of domestic and foreign tourists including women travelers are:

- i) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to Government of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organisation (TFSO) on a pilot basis.
- 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.
- iv) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has also posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.
- v) Safety and Security of Tourists was the main agenda item for the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held on 18th July, 2013.

Regarding safety of tourists, the following resolutions were adopted during the conference:

- # The Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women;
- # 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.
- # That the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will run a mass awareness campaign called "I respect women".