

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1221

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014

BAN ON SATELLITE PHONES

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lack of communication facilities has adversely affected various adventure tourism facilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of existing adventure sports in the country;
- (c) whether adventure tour operators have requested to lift the ban on use of satellite phones for tourism purposes; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto along with the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for boosting adventure tourism in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Lack of communication facilities has affected some adventure sports like high altitude mountaineering, trekking etc. The various adventure sports available in India are mountaineering, trekking, river rafting, parasailing, paragliding, bungee jumping etc.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) had requested the Ministry of Tourism to lift the ban on use of satellite phones for tourism purposes. The Ministry of Tourism has finalized a Scheme for Procurement, Registration and Use of Satellite Phones by the Tour Operators, which has been concurred to by the Ministry of Home Affairs.