

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:410

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

CRIME AGAINST FOREIGN TOURISTS

Pal Shri Jagdambika;Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of crime against foreign tourists in the country, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to curb these crimes and to promote Indian tourism amongst foreign nationals;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up tourist police stations in various parts of the country in view of the rise in crime against tourists especially, foreign women tourists;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and
- (e) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States/UTs in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the status of compliance/implementation by the States/UTs?

Answer

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

(a): The Ministry of Tourism does not compile data on crime against foreign and domestic tourists.

(b), (c) and (d): The 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crime against tourists/foreign tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. However, the Ministry of Tourism has taken following steps in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists:

i. The Ministry of Tourism had advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up Tourist Police at prominent tourist spots. As a result, the State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

ii. The Ministry of Tourism along with all stakeholders, including the Tourism Departments of all States and UTs, have adopted the 'Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism' which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic right like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents in particular, women and children.

iii. Ministry of Tourism is running the Social Awareness Campaign on television to sensitize the masses and the stakeholders on the traditional Indian values and concept 'Atithi Devo Bhava'. The campaign consists of two commercials; one on sensitizing against misbehavior with tourists and the other against cleanliness of tourist sites and streets.

iv. 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

v. The National Tourism Ministers' Conference was convened on 18th July, 2013 and 21st August 2014 in New Delhi which resolved; that the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women.

vi. An advisory has been posted on the Ministry of Tourism website www.incredibleindia.org indicating that India remains safe destination for international Tourists including women tourists.

(e): The Ministry of Tourism has issued the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for Travellers in September 2014. These guidelines are offered to the State Governments/Union Territories and other relevant authorities to stress the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation for ensuring a pleasant experience to the tourists. The Guidelines are indicative references that may be useful to the States in sharing or adopting the best practices and design their domestic measures to better protect tourists. In addition to these guidelines "Tips to Travellers" are also offered to make the visit of tourists to Incredible India, a memorable experience.