

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3585

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED THROUGH FOREIGN TOURISTS

Baheria Shri Subhash Chandra;Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Kumar Shri Ashwini

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the foreign exchange earned during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) the States wherein maximum number of tourists have visited;
- (d) the position of our country in this regard vis-a-vis other developing countries in the world;
- (e) whether the Government has developed its Incredible India drive for improving the target of tourists' visit to India; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The number of Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) to the States/UTs during 2011, 2012 and 2013 are given in Annexure-I. This information is not available for 2014.

(b): The Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism for the country as a whole during 2011, 2012, 2013 and January - November, 2014 were `77,591 Crore, `94,487 Crore, `1,07,671 Crore and `1,07,208 crore, respectively. Ministry of Tourism does not compile State/Union Territory (UT)-wise estimates of Foreign exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism.

(c): The top 5 States in Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) during 2013 were Maharashtra (4.16 million), Tamil Nadu (3.99 million), Delhi (2.30 million), Uttar Pradesh (2.05 million) and Rajasthan (1.44 million).

(d): In 2013 India occupied 41st position in the world in terms of Tourist Arrivals and 16th position in the world in terms of Tourism Receipts.

(e) & (f): The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand- line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through the India tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising road shows, Know India seminars & workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures; offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

The Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance to stakeholders for promotion of tourism in the international and domestic markets under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

The Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled with the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Scheme was launched on 27.11.2014 for nationals of 43 countries whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight- seeing, short duration medical treatment, casual business visit, casual visit to meet friends or relatives etc. for a short stay of 30 days. Earlier the TVoA facility was available for nationals of 12 countries only. The TVoA enabled with ETA will enable the prospective visitor to apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online. Once approved, the applicant will receive an email authorising him/her to travel to India and he/she can travel with a print out of this authorization. On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorisation to the immigration authorities who would then stamp the entry into the country. The entry into India will be allowed within 30 days from the date of approval of ETA and will be Valid for 30 days stay in India from the date of arrival in India.