

Title: Need to take steps for promotion of tourism in J & K.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (SRINAGAR): There is an ample scope for the promotion of Tourism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir has historically been one of India's most famous tourist attractions. The insurgency between 1990 and 1996 completely finished the Tourism industry. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is doing its best within its limited resources to revive Tourism in Kashmir.

The Government of India must evolve a package to attract foreign tourists back to the region. For this, firstly, diplomatic efforts must be made to remove Kashmir from the travel adversary put up by the foreign Governments.

As normalcy is fast returning and we have not faced a single incident of violence directed on any tourists whether foreign or domestic in the last two and a half years, the Government of India, in the Ministry of Tourism should evolve a special action plan to provide all assistance including finance to revive tourism in Kashmir.

It is in my knowledge that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have forwarded a proposal for promoting tourism in the State. The Union Tourism Minister should invite the State's Tourism Minister for discussion and organise programmes for promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir State, to the desired extent.