

Observance of 1999 as 'Visit India Year'

2010. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that year 1999 is proposed to be observed as Visit India Year";

(b) if so, whether any package of incentives is proposed to be offered to boost the growth of tourism;

(c) if answer to Part (b) be in the affirmative, the details thereof and if in the negative, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware of the difficulties of the tourists due to non-acceptance of credit card in some tourist destinations; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to remove this bottleneck?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG):

(a) 1st April, 1999 to 31st March 2000 is proposed to be observed as Visit India Year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism with the help of Travel Trade and the State Governments is proposing to offer special packages and incentives through the following activities:

- Special theme packages
- Promotion of selected Fairs' and Festivals
- Shopping and Food Festival
- Tourism Eipos
- Soecial Celebrations for the Millennium
- Special Cultural events

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Drop in Foreign Tourist

2011. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 40 per cent drop in the nuuiber of foreign tourists visiting the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to revamp the tourism industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG):

(a) and (b) There has been a marginal decline of 0.6 per cent in tourist arrivals during the period from January-November 1998 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The decline has been primarily due to economic crisis in South East Asian countries, general elections in India, high room tariffs in metro cities, etc.

(c) Tourism industry is eligible for various incentives and the units with foreign 'exchange earning of Rs. 6 crores and above has been now accorded export house status.

Development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

2012. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded the status of Industry to Tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof with details of relevant instructions;

(c) whether Government propose to ask the Government of Himachal Pradesh to identify new sources of tourism in the State and prepare a comprehensive programme in this regard to attract foreign and domes-tice tourists in the State:

(d) whether the proposal will boost foreign earnings, besides generation of income and employment avenues to several thousand people of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to Tourism. Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 dated 26-11-98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol. I).

(c) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism infrastructure for which State Governments seek assistance.

(d) and (e) The granting of industry status and consequential benefits thereof would help in the development of tourism which would ultimately result in higher foreign exchange earnings.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

2013. VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal for development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any scheme for introducing more tourist centres

in Kerala and also to introduce the house boats in the inland lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has prioritised 15 projects amounting to Rs. 467 lakhs for the development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

(c) There are 4 tourist centres in Kerala which are Bekal, Cochin, Kovalam and Trivandrum. There is no proposal to introduce more tourist centres in Kerala. No proposal from the State Government has been received for introducing house boats in the inland lake. However, the project to purchase house boats for Malabar has been prioritised for the current financial year for Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

Grant of export industry status to Tourism

2014. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position of Tourism industry on grant of export industry status and benefits related to the status;

(b) the foreign exchange earning of tourism industry during the past three years and current year so far with year-wise and State-wise breakup with reference to Maharashtra in particular;

(c) what are the growth perceptions of tourism industry for the next five years; and

(d) the details of investments on ongoing projects recently cleared/under consideration, including private sector and FDI projects?