

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The provisional month-wise estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in the country during the months of November 2008, December 2008 and January 2009 prepared by Ministry of Tourism on the basis of data available from major airports, and the FTAs in the corresponding months of the previous year are given below :-

Month	FTAs (million)	Month	FTAs (million)
November 2008	0.52	November 2007	0.53
December 2008	0.52	December 2007	0.60
January 2009	0.49	January 2008	0.59

The lower FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(e) To minimize the negative impact of recent terrorist attacks in the country, Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps:-

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States;
- Indiatourism offices overseas are in regular contact with the international media and travel trade to keep them updated on the ground situation in the country.
- Familiarisation Tours for trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other regions of the country have been specially organized to project the ground realities relating to safety/ security conditions in the country. Trade/ Media representatives from USA, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have visited India during the months of December 2008 and January 2009 as a result of this initiative.

Development of eco-tourism in Uttarakhand

†216. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for development of Eco-tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of the amount released and the progress made in Uttarakhand during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism circuits/destinations including Eco-Tourism sites under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 602.00 lakh with a release of Rs.481.60 for the development of Corbett National Park as a tourist circuit in the year 2007-08 to the Government of Uttarakhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi