

Three pronged strategy to boost tourism

579. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three pronged strategy has been formulated recently in consultation with the representatives of the airlines, hotels and travel industry to give boost to tourism to counter the grim situation arising out of the recent terrorist attacks on the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal for visa-on-arrival announced recently?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the travel trade, hotels and airlines has discussed strategy to counter the downtrend following the recent terrorist attacks on the United States.

(b) Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on less effected markets and reorienting the trade and industry to the potential of domestic tourism.

(c) The present status of the proposal on visa-on-arrival is that the procedure and modalities for its implementation are being worked out in consultation with other Ministries.

Low ranking in tourism sector

580. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 153 out of 160 countries in terms of Government spending on Tourism;

(b) whether as compared to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka only 2.64 million tourists came to India last year; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken at a recently held Conference of Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers in New Delhi for attraction of foreign tourists coordination between the States and Centre in this field to control variation in hotel tax from one State to another and to enact laws for 'cleanliness' as in other countries?