

### Tourism promotion in NE States

3600. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allocations to the NE States for tourism promotion have gone underutilized;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is considering to relax the permit regime to promote tourism in North Eastern Region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The review of restrictions pertaining to Restricted Area Permit (RAP)/Protected Area Permit (PAP) for tourists is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposal from the concerned States and in consultation with security agencies.

Ministry of Home Affairs have conveyed relaxation of Protected Area Regime in the following circuits of Arunachal Pradesh.

(i) Along-Mechukha.

(ii) Existing Pasighat - Jenging - Yungkiang to be extended up to Tuting.

(iii) Daproijo-Nacho Circuit Taliha and sayum.

(iv) Ziro-Palin-Nyapin-Sangram-Kaloriang.

(v) Doimukh-Sagalee-Pakee-Kasang-Seppa.

Government of Arunachal Pradesh has also been authorised to issue Protected Area Permit (PAP) in respect of the following :-

(1) To the visiting foreign tourists in a group of two or more persons (as against the existing requirement of group strength of four or more persons) for a maximum period of 30 days.

(2) To a group of two foreign tourists even if they are not married couples and to foreigners married to Indian national belonging to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for visiting the State on tourist visas.

### Foreign Tourist Arrivals

3601. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA :

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism in India, which contributes to 6.23 per cent of G.D.P. provides employment to 50 million plus people, was hit hard, by the Mumbai terror attacks, as 5.22 lakh

foreigners arrived in India in December 2008; down from 5.75 lakh the same period in 2007, thus, in December alone, India lost about 50,000 foreign tourists—a drop of 9.2 per cent;

(b) whether Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA) growth, in whole of 2008 was half of its growth as it stood at 5.6 per cent compared to 2006 and 2007 when FTA grew by 12-14 per cent; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to boost foreign tourist arrivals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) As per the Tourism Satellite Account of India, the share tourism sector, both direct and indirect, in the country's GDP was 5.83%, and it accounted for 38.6 million jobs in the country, in the year 2002-03.

The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during December 2008 was estimated at 5.22 lakh, as compared to 5.97 lakh in December 2007, registering a decline of 12.5%. This decline may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(b) The growth rate in FTAs in India in 2008 over 2007 was 5.6% as compared to 14.3% in 2007 over 2006.

(c) To boost FTAs in India, Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism office overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

Further, the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical and Convention and Conference Tourism in the country.

#### Promotion of Tourism Potential of AP

3602. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is planning to have an active dialogue with global travel and tourism operators to promote tourism potential of the State;

(b) whether Union Ministry has also provided financial help and assistance to the State to improve tourist spots in the State;

(c) whether her Ministry has been working out picnic spots in various States and has agreed to give full assistance to the States to improve potential tourism in States; and

(d) if so, how much amount has so far been provided to States and to what extent it has given boost to improve tourism in India?