

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has constituted a Task Force consisting of the State Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and various land owning agencies like Ministry of Urban Development, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Ministry of Civil Aviation etc. which regularly monitors the progress of hotel projects for the Commonwealth Games 2010.

Tourism promotion

1451. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a drastic decrease in the number of tourists to India in last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that tourism can create employment for millions and also help our economy; and

(d) if so, the budget provision to develop infrastructure in various States for attracting tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2006, 2007, 2008 and January-June, 2009 and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year are given below:—

Period	FTAs (in Million)	Growth over previous year
2006	4.45	13.5%
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* January-June	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2006, 2007 and 2008 show a rising trend, during the period January-June, 2009 there has been a decline. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) of India, contribution of tourism (both direct and indirect) in total jobs in the country and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2002-03 were 8.27% and 5.83% respectively.

(d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Government Agencies for the tourism infrastructure development under the following schemes:—

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits

2. Large Revenue Generating Project
3. Assistance to Central Agencies for Infrastructure Development.

For 2009-10, a budget allocation of Rs.537 crore has been proposed for the above schemes.

Decline in foreign tourists

†1452. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign tourists has come down after the last year's terrorist attacks on various metro cities of the country especially, Jaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is engaged in talks with Governments of other countries or whether any such efforts are being made in this regard so as to instill confidence amongst the foreign tourists to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2007, 2008 and January-June, 2009, and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year, are given below:—

Period	FTAs (in million)	Growth over previous year
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008*	5.37	5.6%
2009* (January-June)	2.47	-9.3%

*Provisional.

The number of FTAs during 2008 increased as compared to 2007, though at a lower growth rate. During the period January-June, 2009 there has been a decline of 9.3% in FTAs. However, a positive growth rate of 0.2% in FTAs was observed in June, 2009 over June, 2008

The decline in FTAs may be due to various reasons including the global financial slowdown and terrorist attacks in some cities of India, including Jaipur.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices and in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories as and when issued by different countries to avoid any adverse impact on tourism to the country. Familiarization tours to India for international travel trade and media representatives have been also arranged to keep them updated on the safety/security conditions in different parts of the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.