

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of destinations/circuits including Eco-tourism sites under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, based on the proposals received from State Governments/UT Administrations subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 8610.33 lakh for development of tourism destination and circuits in Uttar Pradesh in the last three years. Further, projects for Rs. 312.60 lakh in Dudhwa National Park, Distt. Kheri and Rs. 105.00 lakh for Katarniaghat Wild Life Sanctuary, Distt. Bahraich have been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism in the year 2005-06 for development of Eco-tourism.

Tourist inflow

93. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to terrorism and global economy it has brought recession and affected tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether this year with an increase of 15000 tourists in February over January his Ministry is expecting 10 to 20 per cent increase in tourist arrivals in coming months;

(c) whether his Ministry is now trying to focus its campaign on special reasons to visit India in 2009 on spiritual or festivals;

(d) whether his Ministry has earmarked budget of Rs. 20 crores to its all round developing initiative; and

(e) if so, to what extent these measures would help in improving tourist flow to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) Due to various reasons, including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities, the growths in the foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in 2008 as well as all the months of 2009 so far have been lower than the corresponding periods of preceding year.

Though the number of FTAs increased by about 15000 in February, 2009 over January, 2009, the trend did not continue in the succeeding months. However, the growth rate in monthly FTAs over the corresponding period of previous year observed an encouraging trend in April and May, 2009 as compared to March, 2009.

(c) To attract more foreign tourists to India in 2009, "Visit India 2009" scheme has been launched whereby attractive incentives by way of value addition, including one complimentary local sight seeing tour to any one city of visit and one complimentary rural eco holiday in the country, are offered.

(d) and (e) Budget estimates of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2009-10 are Rs. 1070 crore for undertaking various tourism development activities such as tourism infrastructure

development, publicity, marketing, human resource development, etc. The measures taken by Ministry of Tourism recently are planned to attract more foreign tourists to the country.

Decline in tourist inflow

94. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflow of tourists from foreign countries has seen a declining trend in the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has recently formulated a strategy to boost the inflow of tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India and the growth rates over the corresponding period of previous year, during 2006, 2007, 2008 and January-May, 2009, 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%
January-May 2009*	2.13	-10.6%

*Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2006, 2007 and 2008 show a rising trend, during the period January-May 2009 there has been a decline. The decline in FTAs in recent months may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(c) and (d) To boost the arrival of tourists in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:—

- A “Visit India 2009” Scheme has been announced, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India.
- Financial support being provided to approved service providers for undertaking promotional activities overseas under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme has been enhanced.
- With a view to promoting Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism, the scope of the MDA Scheme has been enhanced, so as to include active members of the India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB).