

#### **Demand export status to hotel industry**

1453. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism industry has been affected due to global meltdown, swine flue and advisories issued by foreign countries;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to revive and boost the travel and tourism industry;

(c) whether Government is considering to grant 'deemed export status' to hotel industry; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline of 9.3% in foreign tourist arrivals to the country between January and June, 2009 as compared to the corresponding period last year, as a result of global recession and travel advisories issued by countries. However, in the month of June, for the first time in the last 8 months, there has been positive growth of 0.2% in foreign tourist arrivals.

The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to provide incentives and to boost the travel and tourism industry. These include liberalization and enhanced financial support under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme for service providers promoting India in overseas markets, widening the scope of the MDA Scheme for promoting Medical Tourism, Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions Tourism and Domestic Tourism and subsidising participation of the travel industry and State Governments/UT Administrations in the India Pavilions set up by the Ministry/India-tourism Offices Overseas at major international travel fairs and exhibitions.

The Ministry of Tourism has also announced a "Visit India 2009" Scheme, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Perspective plan for urban development**

1454. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the need of a very comprehensive perspective plan for urban development for our cities which are in bad shape without having proper designing;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the urgency of good urban governance to tackle the problems created by urbanization such as supply of drinking water, good roads, local transportation, light, health and hygiene, sanitation, disposal of garbage, etc.; and