

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The revenue collected through entry fee at 16 World Heritage monuments/sites in the country during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Revenue (Rupees in lakh)
2007	6470.52
2008	6684.09
2009	5790.54

There was a decline of Rs. 893.55 lakh in revenue in 2009 over 2008.

(c) The decline in tourist inflow at World Heritage ticketed monuments/sites during the year 2009 *vis-a-vis* 2008 is given below:—

	Indian *	Foreigner
Number of tourists in 2008	15062661	2071129
Number of tourists in 2009	14284373	1742076
Decline in 2009 over 2008	778288	329053

\*Includes foreigners from SAARC and BIMSTEC countries since they are charged fee as applicable to Indians.

(d) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conserves, preserves and maintains the centrally protected monuments/sites by way of structural repairs, as per archaeological norms, subject to availability of resources. All efforts are made to provide various amenities like drinking water, signages, toilets blocks, pathways, etc. to the tourists at the World Heritage, ticketed and other important monuments.

Keeping in view the Commonwealth Games being held in October, 2010 in Delhi, 46 monuments/sites have been identified by ASI for upgradation to attract more tourists.

#### **Reduction in tourists**

4584. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of tourists both Indian and foreign had reduced during 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the tourists;

(c) the estimated earnings from foreign tourists; and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to improve the tourist infrastructure keeping in view the coming Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2009 was 5.11 million, registering a decline of 3.3% over 2008. The estimates of domestic tourist visits in 2009 are not available. However, the partial data received from some of the States/UTs indicates an increase in number of domestic tourist visits in 2009 over 2008.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 2009 were estimated at 11.39 US\$ billion, registering a decline of 3% over 2008.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism is monitoring the augmentation of accommodation infrastructure required in the National Capital Region of Delhi to meet the demand of the visitors coming for the Commonwealth Games, 2010. The Ministry, through its 'Task Force' constituted for this purpose, is coordinating with various land owning agencies viz., Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana for expeditious completion of the ongoing new hotel projects for the Games. Additionally, it is proposed to use 'Bed and Breakfast' establishments, licensed Guest Houses and DDA housing flats located at Vasant Kunj which would be furnished and operated by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for the Games.

The organizing Committee, XIXth Commonwealth Games, Delhi 2010 has set up a 'Games Travel Office' (GTO) which would cater to the tourism and travel requirements during the Games.

#### **Sustainable development of Tourism**

4585. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism plays an important role in the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of foreign tourists visited India during each of the last three years and revenue earned by Government during the said period; and

(d) the efforts taken by Government to promote sustainable development of tourism to make India an ecologically and socially sensitive tourism destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for India, tourism contributed 5.83 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product and 8.27 per cent of total employment in the country during 2002-03.

(c) The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) and foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism in India during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are given below:—

Year	FTAs (in million)	FEE (in US\$ billion)
2007	5.08	10.73 *
2008	5.28	11.75 * *
2009	5.11@	11.39 * *

@ Provisional,

\* Revised Estimates,

\* \* Advance Estimates