

(c) The Ministry of Tourism undertakes review meetings with the State Governments and also conducts visits to these sites for monitoring the progress of projects under the schemes funded by it.

Website incredible

132. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIR.K.ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Incredible India' website of his Ministry tells foreigners that the Indian Standard Time stands for Indian Stretchable time; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the advice given on this website to foreign visitors gives a bad name to every Indian and consider every Indian as indisciplined; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to remove these objectionable contents from the website?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The Incredible India website in the section Tips for Travelling in India-Time' cautions the travelers to keep extra time whatever the traveler intends to do. To create interest, the Indians joke about the concept of "Indian Stretchable Time" (1ST) has been mentioned for cautioning the super-punctual visitors to have sufficient time at their disposal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Damage to tourism industry due to Tsunami tragedy

133. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total damage caused to tourism industry due to Tsunami tragedy;

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details of the total damage that have been caused and loss of lives and properties of the Ministry; and

(c) what is the help and assistance provided by the Ministry to those employees who were killed and also damage caused to various tourist attractive places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIRENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from State Governments/Union Territories, the following tourism infrastructure has been affected by the Tsunami:

- (i) Pondicherry: St. James Court Beach Resort, Chunnambar Resort, Hotel Pondicherry Ashok and Dolphin Beach, Seagulls Restaurant and Water Sports Complex in Karaikal Region and Boat Club and Seagulls Restaurant in Yanam Region.
- (ii) Tamil Nadu: Tourist cottages, hotels, boat jetty, launches, tourist amenities, etc. at Mamallapuram, Muttukadu, Kanniyakumari, Mudaliyarkuppam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni and Poompuhar.
- (iii) Kerala: Beaches of Kovalam, Veli-Shanghumukom, Varkala, Cherai, Thirumullavaram, Alappuzha, Kumbalangi, Kozhikode, Bekal, Fort Kochi, Muzhippilangad and the Ashtamudi Backwater Front.

(b) and (c) Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, a joint venture hotel between the Government of Pondicherry and India Tourism Development Corporation has suffered a loss of Rs. 40 lakh due to the Tsunami.

There has been no report of loss of life of any employee of the Ministry due to the Tsunami.

Development of tourism in Andaman islands

134. SHRIKRIPALPARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop tourism in Andaman islands;