

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has given permission to start floating casinos in the State to boost tourism;

(b) whether Central Government has issued any guidelines to the State Government in the matter of establishing casinos;

(c) whether Government has any policy for setting up of golf clubs, casinos, water sports, etc. as a part of tourism activity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism under the scheme of Large Revenue Generating Projects provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism infrastructure, which includes setting up of golf courses, water sport projects etc. Ministry of Tourism does not have any policy or guidelines for the casinos.

Unwanted incidents at tourist spots

‡522. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheating and unpleasant incidents have continuously increased at tourist spots in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to implement new code of conduct keeping in view the increasing incidents and complaints of sexual abuse of children at tourist spots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data on crimes, including crimes against tourists. The Union Ministry of Tourism along with stakeholders has adopted the Code of Conduct for "Safe & Honourable Tourism" which is a set of guidelines to be voluntarily adopted by the stakeholders primarily to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular, women and children.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A workshop has already been held on 23.07.2010 with all the stakeholders to sensitize about the code.

Tourist police for foreigners

523. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for establishing tourist police in States in view of the rapidly increasing case of obnoxious maltreatment of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, by when this proposal would be implemented as existing State police outfits have by and large failed to curb this unhealthy and abominable trend;

(c) the number of cases of serious crimes like death of foreign tourists, and other heinous crimes of molestation, rape were reported in Goa during 2008 and 2009; and

(d) the conviction percentage in respect of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/Union Territories. Some State Governments have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other.

Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data on crimes, including crimes against tourists.

Sex-related tourism in Commonwealth Games

524. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the steps being taken to enforce the provisions of the code of ethics, especially in regard to forestalling sex-related tourism at the Commonwealth Games Village in view of the provisioning of 150 condom vending machines within the Village, at hotels and guest houses, in the light of media reports that escort agencies are planning to exploit the business opportunities provided by the approximately one lakh tourists from India and abroad expected for the Commonwealth Games?