

(a) whether any officers/personnel from any Investigating Agency/UK Official Agency have visited/attended India Tourism London Office in the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the Investigating Agency/UK Official Agency alongwith and designations and names of officers and who have verified their identities;

(c) whether any current and/or previous employees complained about the authenticity of such visit/attendance and whether any complaint filed at the UK Police department in relation to such visit/attendance; and

(d) if not, why Ministry of Tourism decided not to lodge a complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report dated 14.01.2011 received from Director, India Tourism; London, two persons from an investigating agency visited the office to question Mr. Sanjay Sunder Mechery, the then Accountant, India Tourism London in connection with the money laundering and huge amount in his bank accounts. However, their identity could not be verified.

On receiving this report, the Ministry directed the Director, India Tourism, London to contact Indian Mission at London to seek their advice and take further necessary action in the matter.

(c) A notice dated 19.01.2011 about the suspension of Mr. Mechery including the issue of authenticity of visit of persons from investigating agency at India Tourism, London was received by the London office on behalf of Mr. Mechery through his Solicitor.

(d) Considering all aspects of the case, Director, India Tourism London did not consider it prudent to lodge a complaint before the police in the matter.

New tourist places in country

3998. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposals to identify and promote new tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments have urged the Union Government to modernise the existing tourist spots; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) The identification of new tourist places, as well as development, modernisation and promotion of existing tourist spots are primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for promotion of tourism projects based on proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority in accordance with the Scheme Guidelines.

Tourist arrivals in Jharkhand

3999. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) growth registered in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings during the last five years;

(b) initiatives taken by Government to develop world class tourism infrastructure in the country;

(c) what has been the response to rural tourism and health tourism of foreign tourists; and

(d) what has been the performance of Jharkhand in attracting tourists during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India, during the last five years, and their growth over the previous year are as follows:

Year	FTAs (in millions)	Growth over previous year
2006	4.45	13.5%
2007	5.08	14.3%
2008	5.28	4.0%
2009	5.17	-2.2%
2010 (P)	5.58	8.1%

(P) Provisional