

(c) whether there are any reports on the impact of tourism in protected areas in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) Ministry of Tourism has finalized the Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) in February, 2012. This criterion includes Principles and Indicators for Sustainable Tourism practices for the tour operators and hotel sector, the two most important segments of tourism industry.

(b) The 'Guidelines for Tourism in and around Tigers Reserves' has been notified by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per these guidelines, all the States have been asked to notify the State-level eco-tourism strategy within a year from the date of notification of the guidelines. The guideline has also recommended the identification and monitoring of ecologically sensitive areas surrounding the tiger reserves to ensure the ecological integrity or corridor/buffer areas which will prevent encroachment. The Ministry of Tourism has guidelines for Approval of Hotel Projects at the implementation stage and also guidelines for Classification of operational hotels under various categories including such hotels being constructed around eco-sensitive and protected areas. As per these guidelines, hotels at the project stage itself are required to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has not commissioned any study regarding the impact of tourism in the protected areas and hence no reports are available.

Development of infrastructure for tourism in States

130. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the development of infrastructure for Tourism in Goa, Andaman and Nicobar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) whether it is a fact that because of weak infrastructure and communication, these States are not able to attract more foreign tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism infrastructure in the country including Goa, Andaman and Nicobar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations (UTs). Ministry of Tourism (MoT), however, provides Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds. Tourism projects to be funded by MoT are decided in consultation with the States/UTs in prioritization meetings held every year.

The Ministry of Tourism has appointed a National Level Consultant (NLC) to identify Tourism Circuits in each State (except North Eastern States) and Union Territory (UT) for development of Tourism infrastructure in association with the States/UTs, during the Twelfth Plan period.

International Tourist Arrivals depend on various factors like economic condition of the source market, air connectivity, availability of reasonably priced hotel accommodation, etc.

The foreign tourist visits to the concerned States during the last three years are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of foreign tourist visits

(Figures in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	2009	2010	2011 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.14	0.15	0.16
2.	Goa	3.77	4.41	4.46
3.	Himachal Pradesh	4.01	4.54	4.85
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.54	0.48	0.72

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Madhya Pradesh	2.01	2.50	2.70
6.	Odisha	0.46	0.50	0.61
7.	Rajasthan	10.73	12.79	13.52
8.	Uttarakhand	1.06	1.27	1.25
9.	West Bengal	11.80	11.92	12.13

Funds for vocational training centres for SC and ST in UP

†131. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is providing funds to organisations to operate vocational training centres for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of funds provided for the said purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of 'Vocational Training in Tribal Areas' to upgrade the skills of ST youth in various traditional/modern vocations to enable them to gain suitable employment or become self-employed. The State of Uttar Pradesh is also covered under the Scheme.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed that they are providing funds to organizations to operate vocational training centers for Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh under the Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for SC and OBC students and Scheme for Grant in aid to Voluntary Organizations working for SCs.

(c) Under the schemes of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have not released to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.