

in the country in a sustainable and responsible manner. There are no reports with the Ministry that tourist destinations with fragile ecology are suffering because of huge environmental damage due to tourism activities.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism has not commissioned any study to ascertain the damage occurred due to tourism in higher altitude tourist destinations of Himalayan States and in the fragile beaches of coastal States.

(c) and (d) Eco-Tourism is one of the emerging segments of Tourism in India. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including for Eco-Tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. The Central Financial Assistance for Eco-Tourism projects are however, subject to the clearances obtained from the requisite regulatory agencies.

#### **Foreign tourists victims of sexual assault**

1992. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several foreign tourists are the victims of rape and assault in different States;

(b) if so, how many cases of rape of foreign tourists have been reported during the last two years; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the foreign tourist from assault and rape in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crime against foreign tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data on crimes, including crimes against foreign tourists.

However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/Union Territories. Some of the State Governments have deployed tourist police in one form or other.

Further, the guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization (s) comprising ex-servicemen, formulated by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, Home and Directorate General of Resettlements have been forwarded to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

In addition, the Union Ministry of Tourism along with stakeholders has adopted the 'Code of Conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism' which is a set of guidelines 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.

**Decline in number of tourists**

1993. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourist arrival from various parts of world has shown decline during the last nine months;
- (b) if so, the number of foreign tourists visited India during the last nine months, region-wise;
- (c) whether there has been delay in granting financial support to various States for development of tourism infrastructures in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) No, Sir. The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India has witnessed a growth of 3.53% during the period June, 2012 - February, 2013 over the same period of previous year.

(b) The month-wise number of FTAs during the period June, 2012 - February, 2013 are given below:

Month	FTAs (Provisional)
1	2
June, 2012	4,32,128
July, 2012	5,24,644
August, 2012	4,55,662
September, 2012	4,14,859