

Affect of rape case on tourism

3381. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing number of rape cases in the country have affected tourism, if so, details thereof;

(b) the details with regard to rape of foreign nationals, and rape cases in Maharashtra in the last one year, also details of tourists in both categories during the last two years; and

(c) the additional steps Government has planned to take to tackle this issue in a constructive manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India in 2012 were 6648318 as compared to 6309222 in 2011, *i.e.*, an increase of 5.4%.

During the period January - March, 2013 as compared to corresponding period in 2012, the Foreign Tourist Arrivals have shown an increase of 2.3%.

(b) As per the information provided by Special Inspector General of Police, Prevention of Atrocity against Women, CID, Maharashtra State, Pune, the details in respect of the State of Maharashtra are as follows:

(i) Number of rape cases on foreign nationals during the last one year - is one. (A Spanish woman was raped on 05.11.2012. An offence was registered at Bandra Police Station. The accused is arrested).

(ii) Number of rape cases in Maharashtra in the last one year *i.e.*, 2012 is 1839.

(iii) Number of rape cases on foreign tourists during the last two years - As per above point (i) and the number of rape cases on Indian tourists during last two years - NIL.

(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 tourists/foreign tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

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 the other.

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

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 foreign exchange earnings from tourism

3382. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange earnings from tourism have declined during the January-March, 2013;

(b) if so, the details of foreign exchange earnings during the last-quarter of 2012-13 *vis-a-vis* 2011-12;

(c) whether the main reasons for decline in earnings from tourist inflow is attributed to perception that India is unsafe for women tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for image building exercise so that earning from tourism is not impacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings through tourism in India during January - March, 2013 were US\$ 5.55 billion as compared to US\$ 4.97 billion during the corresponding period of 2012, registering a growth of 11.6%.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.