

- (xi) Thickness of the gas lines is being measured periodically by NDT in order to take corrective actions.
- (xii) All the corroded gas lines are being changed with proper shutdowns.
- (xiii) Gas safety van is available round the clock. Gas Safety personnel are posted round the clock in different zones.
- (xiv) Third party Risk Assessment and studies are being conducted for all the newly commissioning units.
- (xv) Dedicated hot line communication system has been established between Blast Furnace, BF Gas Cleaning Plant and Pump House to ensure immediate action.

Expansion of capacity of steel industry

3063. SHRI R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ventured into expansion of capacity of steel industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Steel is a deregulated sector and the decisions regarding setting up of new steel plants and expansion of existing steel plants are taken by the project proponents, keeping in view the market dynamics and techno-economic viability of the project.

Plan to promote foreign tourists

†3064. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the plans to promote foreign tourists in the country;
- (b) whether the number of foreign tourists has declined during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether some countries have issued advisory to their citizens not to visit India and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

campaigns in the international markets, under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various Indian tourism destinations and products. In addition, a series of promotional activities are being undertaken in major tourist generating markets overseas through India Tourism Offices overseas with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and promoting tourism to the country. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising road shows, Know India seminars and workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality programme of the Ministry.

Road Shows are being organised in important and potential source markets overseas in collaboration with trade associations to promote tourism to the country. Such Road Shows have been organised in USA, Eastern Europe and China during the current financial year.

With the objective of attracting Buddhist tourists from all over the world, the Ministry is organising an International Buddhist Conclave in Bodhgaya and Sarnath from September 26 to 28, 2014.

The Ministry is also organising the third annual International Travel Mart (ITM) at Shillong, Meghalaya in October 2014 with the objective of promoting tourism from the world over to the North Eastern region. ITMs were organised in Guwahati, Assam during 2012-13 and in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh during 2013-14.

(b) The details of Foreign Tourists Arrivals (FTAs) to India during the last ten years are as under:

Year	FTAs (in nos.)	Annual Growth (%)
2004	34,57,477	26.8
2005	39,18,610	13.3
2006	44,47,167	13.5
2007	50,81,504	14.3
2008	52,82,603	4.0
2009	51,67,699	(-) 2.2
2010	57,75,692	11.8
2011	63,09,222	9.2
2012	65,77,745	4.3
2013	69,67,601	5.9

(c) Travel advisories are issued by various countries from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take precautions while travelling to other countries/certain areas in other countries for various reasons. Following some cases of harassment of women tourists in India, a few countries including USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France have advised women tourists to exercise caution while travelling in India, particularly alone and at night.

Beautification of old Goa

3065. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake beautification of village of old Goa in view of the exposition of St. Francis Xavier;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of projects/schemes proposed to be undertaken by Government to supplement the efforts of the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments and UT Administrations for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them for each financial year, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority, adherence to scheme guidelines and liquidation of pending utilization certificates.

No proposal for beautification of village of old Goa in view of the exposition of St. Francis Xavier has been prioritised for grant of CFA during the current financial year 2014-15. However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project “Integrated development of infrastructure for Heritage and Hinterland Tourism in Goa”, which includes the development of Churches, as Mega Project for an amount of ₹ 4309.91 lakh, in the year 2008-09. The Ministry is also launching a special publicity campaign for the exposition.

Promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh

3066. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's guidelines for promotion of tourism in the country particularly in the hilly and rural areas;