

(b) At present, the Ministry of Tourism does not have any such representation.

(c) At present, there is no proposal pending for offering special LTC scheme for the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(d) At present, the Ministry of Tourism does not have any such proposal.

Contribution of tourism sector to GDP

3067. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what was the contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the absolute amounts and proportion to GDP, year-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry has prepared a comprehensive policy framework to increase this share during the next decade; and

(d) if so, the details of broad outline ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The 2nd Tourism Satellite Account of India (TSAI) was prepared for the reference period 2009-10 in the year 2012. As per the 2nd TSAI – 2009-10 and subsequent estimation for years 2010-11 and 2011-12, the contribution of tourism (direct and indirect) to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country in percentage terms and in Rupees Crore are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The current National Tourism Policy of the Government was formulated in 2002 after detailed interaction with industry associations, concerned Ministries and Departments of Central Government, State Governments and other stakeholders. The Tourism Policy provides broad framework for the following:

- (i) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity;
- (ii) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- (iii) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- (iv) Creation of world class infrastructure; and
- (v) Developing sustained and effective marketing plans and programmes.

The actions taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost tourism in the country are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I*Contribution of tourism sector to GDP in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12*

Year	Contribution of Tourism to India's GDP (%)			Tourism GDP (in ₹ crore)		
	Direct	Indirect	Total	Direct	Indirect	Total
2009-10	3.68	3.09	6.77	2,37,768	1,99,654	4,37,422
2010-11*	3.67	3.09	6.76	2,82,116	2,36,893	5,19,009
2011-12*	3.67	3.09	6.76	3,27,067	2,74,638	6,01,705

* Revised

Statement-II*The details of initiatives/steps taken to promote tourism in the country***1. Visa:**

- (a) The Government announced Tourist Visa-on-Arrival in 2010. At present, it provides Tourist Visa-on-Arrival facility (TVoA) to the nationals of 12 countries namely Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos, Myanmar and South Korea. South Korea was added to this list on 15.04.2014.
- (b) The facility of TVoA was initially available at the international airport of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. However, with effect from 15 August, 2013 this facility has been extended through Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- (c) The restriction of two-month gap on re-entry of foreign nationals coming to India on Tourist Visa and Tourist Visa-on-Arrival has been lifted.
- (d) Ministry of Tourism organised a two day training program covering 450 officials of Bureau of Immigration handling Tourist Visa-on-arrival at Kochi, Chennai, Goa, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad Airports.
- (e) Tourist Visa-on-Arrival fee payment can now be made by credit cards. Earlier it was only to be paid in rupees.

2. Low Cost Airlines:

The Ministry of Tourism regularly interacts with the Ministry of Civil Aviation in matters pertaining to air connectivity to the tourist destinations and development and upgradation of airports. Government has identified development of low cost airports in the Tier-II and Tier-III cities as one of the thrust areas.

3. **Safety of Women Tourists:**

The measures taken by the Ministry of Tourism towards safety and security of domestic and foreign tourists including women travelers are:

- (a) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organisation (TFSO) on a pilot basis.
- (b) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Honourable Tourism which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.
- (c) Letters have been written to all the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations to take immediate effective steps for ensuring conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity.
- (d) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.
- (e) Safety and Security of Tourists was discussed in the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers held on 18th July, 2013.

4. **Cleanliness and Hygiene:**

To tackle the problem of hygiene and cleanliness at tourist destinations, the Ministry of Tourism has taken the initiative of launching the Campaign Clean India with a vision to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene practices at tourist destinations. This campaign is to be sustained through adoption and involvement of private and public sector stakeholders as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

5. **Highway Facilities en route to tourist places:**

Development of tourism infrastructure including wayside amenities is primarily undertaken by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. The Ministry of Tourism accords high priority to the sanctioning of wayside amenities to the states/UTs during the prioritization of tourism infrastructure projects.

6. Trained Language Speaking Guides:

Selection and Training of Regional Level Tourist Guides including linguist guides is an ongoing process and the Ministry conducts the training programmes through the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) periodically based on the demand of guides and foreign tourist arrivals from a particular country to the respective region.

7. Rationalisation of Taxes:

- (a) Empowered Committee of officers on the 'Issue of National Permit System' for tourist buses and goods vehicles (below 7.5 tons) has been constituted.
- (b) Five Year Tax Holiday for 2, 3 and 4 star category hotels located in all UNESCO declared World Heritage sites (except Mumbai and Delhi) for hotels operating *w.e.f.* 01.04.2008 to 31.03.2013.
- (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – Hotel and Tourism related industry declared as high priority industry and FDI up to 100% under the automatic route Enhancement of FAR in Delhi from 150 to 225 for hotels excluding Lutyens Zone.
- (d) An investment linked deduction Under Section 35 AD of the Income Tax Act had also been announced in the Union Budget 2010-2011 for establishing new hotels of 2 star category and above, all over India thus allowing 100% deduction in respect of the whole or any expenditure of capital nature excluding (land, goodwill and financial instruments) incurred during the year.
- (e) In a Notification dated October 7, 2013 the Ministry of Finance expended its "Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors" to include such hotels and Convention centres for benefit of Hospitality Industry. Hotels with a project cost of ₹ 200 crore and above each at any place in India and of any star rating, and Convention Centre with a project cost of more than ₹ 300 crores has been included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors. This is equivalent to granting infrastructure status to the hospitality industry.

8. Use of ICT:

- (a) The Ministry has signed an agreement with M/s Genesys International Corporation Limited, for creating, developing and maintaining Walking Tours product which is an online, interactive web product that help national and international tourists, plan and take walking tours in all major cities in India.

- (b) The Ministry has also signed an agreement with M/s Audio Compass (India) Pvt. Ltd to deliver guided, multimedia and interactive walking tours on its website through a dedicated API link or a separate website and/or mobile application.
- (c) The promotional website of the Ministry of Tourism www.incredibleindia.org has been comprehensively revamped and updated.

9. **Proposed Initiatives:**

- (a) Development of 5 tourist circuits around specific themes. An amount of ₹ 500 crore has been proposed for the year 2014-15 for this propose.
- (b) With a view to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths, a National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) has been announced and an amount of ₹ 100 crore has been proposed in this year's Budget.

Schemes to promote backwater tourism and farm tourism

3068. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has schemes to promote backwater tourism and farm tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details therefor; and
- (c) how much funds were allocated for the above sector during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The promotion of tourist destinations and products including Backwater Tourism and Farm Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets, including the various tourism destinations and products of every State/Union Territory of the country including Backwater and Farm Tourism.

As part of the above promotional activities, Ministry of Tourism has released campaigns in the international and domestic markets as well as produces publicity material under the Incredible India brand-line and no separate funds are allocated only for the promotion of Backwater and Farm Tourism.