

Year	FTAs (in million)	Growth over previous year (%)
2011	6.31	9.2
2012	6.58	4.3
2013	6.97	5.9

(e) The action taken by the Government to boost tourism in the country is given in the statement

[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to SQ/USQ No. 891 Part (a) to (d)]

#### **Encouraging tourism in Gujarat**

†898. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to encourage tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is proposing to take steps to encourage tourism in Gujarat also; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administration including the State of Gujarat for various tourism projects prioritized every year in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Further, to boost tourism in the country including the State of Gujarat, the Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country and to increase foreign tourist arrivals to the country. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through India tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and increasing tourist arrivals to the country. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 Programmer of the Ministry.

**Deterrent punishment for crimes against foreign tourists**

\*899. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a legislation for providing deterrent punishment including capital punishment for crimes against foreign tourists visiting the country in view of the serious concerns expressed by the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Simplification of procedure for growth of trade**

900. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing trade procedure and infrastructure are working as barriers so far as growth of trade is concerned; and

(b) the details of measures proposed to be adopted to simplify procedures and strengthen infrastructure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) It is the endeavor of the Government to remove barriers, augment and improve the infrastructure at ports and simplify the procedures for growth of trade. The ongoing trade procedures and infrastructure are reviewed regularly. The Government is engaged in negotiating a WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in terms of the modalities contained in the Ministerial Decision on 7th December 2013. The ongoing WTO negotiations on Trade Facilitation (TF) seek to develop a set of multilateral trade rules that aim to simplify, modernize and harmonize trade procedure with a view to ensure smooth movement of import, export and transit of goods across the international borders.

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