

**Rise in number of foreign tourists
despite H1N1 virus and swine flu**

1585. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rise in the number of foreign tourists flow to our country despite the fact that there are large number of victims due to the H1N1 virus and swine flu disease during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rise in number of FTAs during August, 2014 to January, 2015 over the corresponding months of previous year is as under:

| Month | FTAs | Month | FTAs | Rise |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Aug., 13 | 4,86,338 | Aug., 14 | 5,78,335 | 91,997 |
| Sep., 13 | 4,53,561 | Sep., 14 | 5,12,079 | 58,518 |
| Oct., 13 | 5,98,095 | Oct., 14 | 6,69,259 | 71,164 |
| Nov., 13 | 7,33,923 | Nov., 14 | 7,66,690 | 32,767 |
| Dec., 13 | 8,21,581 | Dec., 14 | 8,86,084 | 64,503 |
| Jan., 14 | 7,59,515 | Jan., 15 | 7,90,100 | 30,585 |

Note: This information is not available for February, 2015.

(c) Does not arise.

Degree by ICH on the lines of IIT council

1586. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give degree under the brand name Indian Council for Hospitality (ICH) on the lines of IIT council;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to have uniform fee structure, salaries, transparent faculty recruitment procedure and other key regulations for the Institutes of Hotel Management affiliated with the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism is considering to set up Indian Institute of Hospitality (IIH) as an Institute of National importance with the power to promote and develop education and research in hospitality and catering management and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto including awarding of various degrees in that field in India.

(c) As of date the Central Institutes of Hotel Management affiliated to the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) have uniform fee structure, salaries, transparent faculty recruitment procedure and other key regulations.

Eligibility criteria for obtaining Gorkha certificate

1587. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria required to be met for obtaining a Gorkha certificate;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gorkha certificates are issued only to Hindu and Buddhist Gorkhas, and not to Christian Gorkhas; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same and the steps being taken to redress this anomaly in eligibility criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is a nodal Ministry of notification of a community as Scheduled Tribe. However, the responsibility for issuance of Scheduled Tribe certificate and verification of social status rests with the State Government/ UT Administration concerned. The Gorkha community is not notified as Scheduled Tribe in State of West Bengal.

As informed by Ministry of Culture, the norms for Gorkha certificates are laid down by the Government of West Bengal *vide* their Circular No. 3519(18)-P dated 12.7.2006 and No. 5310(18)-P dated 10.10.2006 after due verification of candidates belonging to Gorkha and Sikkimese communities for enabling certain relaxation on physical measurements.