

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tourist arrivals to the country remained more or less stagnant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) As per the Report of the 'Working Group on Tourism' for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) set up by the Planning Commission, for a projected annual growth of 12% in Foreign Tourist Arrivals, the requirement of additional hotel rooms under classified category in 2016 over 2010 is estimated to be 1,90,108 hotel rooms.

(b) As per the records available, some countries like Brazil and New Zealand have contribution of tourism sector in GDP of about 8.6% and 8.7% respectively. However, contribution of tourism sector in total GDP of India is better than some of the countries like Canada, South Africa, Indonesia and Australia. As per the 2nd Tourism Satellite Account of India (TSA) 2009-10 and subsequent estimation, the contribution of tourism to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 were 6.76% and 6.88% respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There has been a positive growth in the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during each of the last five years. The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) along with the growth over previous year during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 are given below:

Year	FTAs (in million)	Growth Rate (%)
2010	5.78	11.8
2011	6.31	9.2
2012	6.58	4.3
2013	6.97	5.9
2014	7.70 (PR)	10.6

(PR) Provisionally Revised

#### **Growth in tourism sector**

732. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth registered in tourism sector during the last three years is substantially lower than estimated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof and if not, the data existing with Government for the aforesaid period;

(c) whether the tourism industry has sought various relaxations including tax rebate and infrastructural development for its sustenance;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by Government thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by Government to achieve the desired growth in tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) The growth registered in Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during last three years were better than the provisional estimates of FTAs except for the year 2012.

(b) The provisional estimates and final figures of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India along with the growth rates over previous year is given below:

Year	2012	2013	2014
Provisional FTAs (in million)	6.65	6.85	7.46
Growth rate (%)	5.4	4.1	7.1
Final FTAs (in million)	6.58	6.97	7.70*
Growth rate (%)	4.3	5.9	10.6
Provisionally revised			

(c) and (d) The Tourism Industry has requested the Government of India for the following fiscal benefits including tax rebate and relaxations:

- (i) Inclusion of tourism infrastructure like hotels/resorts/tourist lodges/banquet halls/convention and exhibition centres etc. for benefits of Section 32 AC of Income Tax Act 1961 by lowering the minimum threshold investment limit to ₹ 5.00 crores.
- (ii) Extension of benefits under Section 35 AD of Income Tax Act, 1961 to business concerns who are making capital investment in setting up of smaller category of hotels/ guest houses/ dharamsalas/ tourist hostels/ motels/ wellness facilities/ medical facilities and other associated infrastructure like installation of house boats/ adventure and leisure tourism facilities.

- (iii) Weighted deduction of 200% in line with Research & Development sectors in India for expenditure incurred towards marketing and promotional activities of the country as inbound tourism destination.
  - (iv) Establishment of special tourism zones in India.
  - (v) Lower withholding of tax and interest paid to foreign banks or financial institutions for loan taken in tourism sector.
  - (vi) Deduction in respect of profit and gains from taxable income for business of hotels, convention centres and other tourism specific infrastructure.
  - (vii) Foreign exchange earning linked deduction on profits for Income Tax computation.
  - (viii) Exemption on Service Tax from Heritage Hotels and Heritage Trains.
  - (ix) Exemption on Service Tax on room tariff to be increased.
  - (x) Service Tax to be exempted for unit to be set up within special tourism zones.
  - (xi) Exemption on Service Tax on all the incidental activities or services like hotel stay, Rent a Cab, Tour Operators etc. if the main event is exempted by Government from the ambit of Service Tax.
  - (xii) Extend CENVAT credit on the entire tourism components of Travel intermediaries on abated value (tour operators, travel agents, rent a cab operators) as against just on the same line of business.
- (e) Steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism to boost tourism in the country are as follows:

**(i) Publicity and Promotion:** 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.

As part of the above promotional activities, Ministry of Tourism undertakes centralized international media campaigns (prints, electronics and online) under the Incredible India brand-line in key source markets as well as potential markets across the world.

The Ministry has taken up creation, development and maintenance of Walking

Tours product which is an online, interactive web product that will help national and international tourists, plan and take walking tours in all major cities in India.

Contents for interactive multimedia walking tours of major Indian cities, monuments and tourist destinations for hosting on Incredible India website have also been designed, developed and produced.

The Ministry of Tourism has signed an agreement with M/s Worth Your Holidays as part of which an automated holiday planner (*Tripigator.com*) has been linked to the website of the Ministry of Tourism to facilitate the tourists to make itineraries.

The Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance to stakeholders for promotion of tourism in the international and domestic markets under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme .

- (ii) **New Schemes:** In the Budget for 2014-15, following two new schemes were announced:
- (i) Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Infrastructure Development as Theme-Based Tourist Circuits. The five circuits initially identified under this scheme are: Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North-East Circuit;
  - (ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Twelve cities initially identified under the scheme are Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Vellankani.
- (iii) **e- Tourist Visa :** The Tourist Visa 011 Arrival (TVoA) enabled with the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Scheme, presently known as e-Tourist Visa Scheme, was launched on 27.11.2014 for nationals of 43 countries and was subsequently extended to nationals of Guyana and Sri Lanka in January, 2015 and April, 2015, respectively whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight- seeing, short duration medical treatment, casual business visit, casual visit to meet friends or relatives etc. for- a short stay of 30 days. Earlier the TVoA facility was available for nationals of 12 countries only. The e- Tourist Visa will enable the prospective visitor to apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online. Once approved, the applicant will receive an email authorising him/her to travel to India and he/she can travel with a print out of this authorization. On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorisation

to the immigration authorities who would then stamp the entry into the country. The entry into India will be allowed within 30 days from the date of approval of ETA and will be valid for 30 days stay in India from the date of arrival in India.

- (iv) **Restriction on gap for re- entry lifted:** 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 with effect from 4th December, 2012.
- (v) **Central Financial Assistance:** Ministry of Tourism operates various schemes through which Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is provided to States/Union Territories (UTs) and other central agencies for overall development of tourism in the country.
- (vi) **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 involvement of private and public sector stakeholders as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- (vii) **Sustainable Tourism:** The Ministry of Tourism has launched a Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for three major segments of tourism industry, namely accommodation, tour operators and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes and Rivers sector on 26.08.2014.

The Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) addresses need of various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plan (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control etc.

- (viii) **Safety of Women Tourists:** The Ministry of Tourism had advised the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up Tourist Police at prominent tourist spots. As a result, the State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

An advisory has been posted on the Ministry of Tourism website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org) indicating that India remains safe destination for international Tourists including women tourists.

- (ix) **Human Resource Development :** In order to bridge the huge skill gap existing in Hospitality Industry, Ministry of Tourism has adopted a multipronged strategy to strengthen institutional infrastructure for training and education. At present, there are 21 Central Institutes of Hotel Management (CIHMs), 15 State Institutes of Hotel Management (SIHMs), 7 Food Craft Institutes (FCIs) and 5 Indian Institutes of Tourism and Travel Management (1 Headquarter and 4 Functional Centres). Apart from these, 15 new SIHMs and 15 FCIs have been sanctioned.

**Foreign exchange earned by the tourism department**

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

- (a) the funds earmarked by Government for tourism department for its expenditure in the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (b) the expenditure made each year;
- (c) the percentage of total annual budget earmarked by Government for tourism department each year; and
- (d) the details of foreign exchange earned by the tourism department as revenue during each of the above mentioned years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The Budgetary Allocation (both Plan & Non-Plan) and expenditure of the Ministry of Tourism during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given below.-

(₹ in crore)					
Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Total Budget of Govt. of India	Ministry of Tourism in percentage of Total BE for the Year	Revised Estimate Ministry of Tourism	Expenditure
2012-13	1282.98	14,90,925.29	0.086%	1020.28	934.26
2013-14	1357.30	16,65,297.32	0.082%	1050.31	1029.19
2014-15	1966.71	17,94,891.96	0.110%	1182.99	946.47
(Provisional)					

- (d) The Ministry of Tourism is not a revenue generating department. However, tourism sector contributes significantly to the foreign exchange earnings. The foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as follow: