

**Tourist advisories against visiting Kashmir**

2052. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the countries in Europe and America have tourist advisories against visiting Kashmir; and

(b) whether Government has discussed about removing the advisories in view of improved security situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) 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. Countries like USA, Germany, France, Spain, Austria have issued travel alert to their citizens regarding travel to some parts of Kashmir. The Ministry of Tourism through the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad takes up the matter regarding lifting of such travel advisories as and when issued by any country to avoid adverse impact on tourism to the country.

The Ministry also provides information about the correct ground situation in the country regularly through its overseas offices to mitigate the impact of travel advisories issued, if any.

Foreign tourist visits to the State of Jammu and Kashmir have shown an increase from 78802 in 2012 to 86477 in 2014.

**Eco-tourism around freshwater lakes**

2053. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to build eco-tourism around the freshwater lakes in the country;

(b) if so, the proposal of Government to develop such eco-friendly spots in hill slopes surrounding the lakes thereof;

(c) whether Government has received consultation projects from the North-East States thereon; and

(d) if so, the plan details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme-Integrated Development