

non-alloy and other alloy flat products to 10% (from 7.5%). This has been further revised in August, 2015. Currently, import duty on flat steel is applicable at 12.5%, on long steel products at 10% and on semi-finished steel products at 10%.

- (iv) Amended the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2012, in December, 2015 to ensure that only quality steel is produced/imported in India.
- (v) Levied the Anti-Dumping Duty for five years on imports of certain variety of hot-rolled flat products of stainless steel from China (\$ 309 per tonne), Korea (\$ 180 per tonne) and Malaysia (\$ 316 per tonne).
- (vi) Imposed the Safeguard Duty of 20% in March, 2016 on hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy steel, in coils of width of 600 mm or more.

(e) and (f) The Government is guided by National Steel Policy, 2005 for long term development of steel sector. However, currently, the focus is on taking measures to protect the industry. These measures are given in reply to part (c) and (d) of this question.

#### **Steps taken to achieve tourism growth**

1155. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that tourism has failed to boom in India despite its varied attractions; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to achieve tourism growth rate comparable to the success story of South-East Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tourism has not failed to boom in India. The total number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 6.97 million, 7.68 million and 8.03 million, respectively, showing that the number of FTAs has been on a continuous rise over the years.

The initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism in the recent past years for promoting tourism and to attract more tourists in the country are as below:

- Introduction of e-Tourist Visa facility for the citizens of 150 countries at 16 airports.
- Launch of 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Infoline handling 10 international languages besides Hindi and English.

- The Ministry of Tourism has launched 'Welcome Booklet' with information on Do's and Don'ts for tourists, contact details of India Tourism Domestic Offices and Tourist Helpline Number for distribution at immigration counters to tourists arriving at international airports.
- Promotion of India as a holistic destination in the international markets under the Incredible India brand line.
- Organisation of biennial International Buddhist Conclave.
- Organisation of Annual International Tourism Mart for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States.
- Promotion of activities in tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with active participation in International Tourism Events.
- Financial assistance to Stakeholders and Tourism Departments of States/UTs for undertaking promotional activities under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

#### **Development of islands for tourism**

1156. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to develop 700 islands for tourism across the country;
- (b) whether Government has identified these islands;
- (c) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the State-wise estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs and the NITI Aayog informs that the Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary on matters related to Holistic development of islands, in its meeting held on 12.05.2016 has recommended a list of 20 islands for holistic development. The Names of the islands State/UT-wise are given in the Statement (*See* below). It was also decided that NITI Aayog will be responsible for the preparation of holistic development plans for these islands.