

Measures to address unregulated tourist rush

3039. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious environmental problems have beset those tourist places *i.e.* Shimla, Ladakh, Goa, etc. in India, where unregulated tourist rush is a major issue; and

(b) if so, measures taken up for cleanliness and tackling environmental problems caused due to this unregulated tourist rush?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Management of environmental related issues at tourist places due to unregulated tourist rush is the mandate of the respective State/UT Governments.

However, Ministry of Tourism has been promoting responsible tourism practices to ensure development of tourism in a sustainable manner in the country. The National Tourism Policy of 2002 gives due attention to sustainability and advocates against over exploitation of national resources and ignoring carrying capacity of tourist sites.

The Ministry of Tourism has evolved Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria (STCI) for major segments of the tourism industry, namely accommodation, tour operators, beaches, backwaters, lakes, rivers etc. and is applicable for the entire country. The Criteria has been evolved after consultations with the various stakeholders to ensure that the tourism practices are environment friendly and sustainable.

Ministry of Tourism as part of Swachhta Action Plan (SAP) also undertakes cleanliness related activities and sensitization of tourism stakeholders at various tourist sites and destinations with active participation of States/UTs, field offices of Ministry of Tourism and Educational Institutions.

Infrastructure development plan for pilgrimage tourism

3040. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing tourism infrastructure development plan for pilgrimage tourism, if so, the details thereof; and