

will be in jeopardy. On the one hand, we are saying that our gross domestic savings are coming down, as percentage of GDP, and it is hovering around 22-23 per cent. On the other, these schemes really do not address the question of increasing savings in this country, so much as these ends and devices are only to the extent of their loans with the Government of India, there is some relief. But, with the rest of the commercial borrowings, etc., there is nothing in the scheme.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am afraid that is the complete misreading of the scheme because, in fact, the reality is that so far as small savings go, the volume of small savings have been in gross has been growing by 18 to 22 per cent. Now, these small savings, as the percentage of the GDP, is also around 22 to 24 per cent. These small savings have been growing roughly between 18 and 22 per cent. Here we are talking of swapping, almost 55 per cent of the States' debt. After this is completed, more than half of the States' debt would get swapped for low cost debt. Therefore, the hon. Member's apprehension that this is all notional, I am afraid, is not founded.

*627. [The questioner (Dr. Prabha Thakur) was absent. For answer *vide* page 37 *infra*.]

*628. [The questioner (Dr. Akhilesh Das) was absent. For answer *vide* page 37-38 *infra*.]

पर्यटकों का आगमन

*629. **श्री ईसाम सिंह :** क्या पर्यटन और संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशी पर्यटकों के आगमन की संख्या में गत वर्ष की तुलना में कमी आई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या सरकार, भविष्य में उनके आगमन में आई कमी दूर हो सके, इसके लिए विशेष प्रबन्ध करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ग) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति मंत्री (श्री जगमोहन) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) वर्ष 2002 की इसी अवधि की तुलना में, वर्ष 2003 के पहले चार महीनों के दौरान, देश में विदेशी पर्यटक आगमन में 11 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई।

(ख) और (ग) पर्यटन विभाग, भारत सरकार की विदेशी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने के लिए, पर्यटन के संवर्धन हेतु निम्नलिखित लघुकालीन एवं दीर्घकालीन योजनाएँ हैं :-

- पर्यटन विकास कार्य को एक राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता कार्यक्रमलाप के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित तथा अनुरक्षित करना;
- एक पर्यटक गंतव्य स्थल के रूप में भारत की स्पर्धात्मकता में वृद्धि करना तथा इसे बनाए रखना;
- नए पर्यटन बाजार की अपेक्षाओं की पूर्ति के लिए भारत के वर्तमान पर्यटन उत्पादों में सुधार तथा इनका विस्तार करना;
- विश्व स्तर की अवसंरचना का सृजन;
- सतत एवं प्रभावी मार्केट योजनाओं और कार्यक्रमों का विकास करना;
- ग्रामीण और लघु क्षेत्र पर्यटन के विकास पर विशेष बल देना;
- सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों पर शिष्टाचार और नागरिक प्रशासन से संबंधित मुद्दों और अच्छे कार्यपालन की ओर ध्यान देना; तथा
- पर्यटन परिपथों एवं पर्यटन-सह-सांस्कृतिक हबों का विकास।

Tourist inflow

*629. SHRI ISAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether arrival of foreign tourists has decreased as compared to that of last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are contemplating for making special arrangements for arrival of tourists in future; and

(c) the details thereof ?

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[6 May, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) :
(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has been a growth of 11 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals in the country during the first four months of the year 2003 as compared to the same period of the year 2002.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has the following short-term and long-term plans to promote tourism thereby attracting foreign tourists:-

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

श्री ईसाम सिंह : सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न के क्रम संख्या "क" में माननीय मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया है कि वर्ष 2002 की इसी अवधि की तुलना में वर्ष 2003 के पहले 4 महीनों के दौरान देश में विदेशी पर्यटकों के आगमन में 11 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई। मेरा प्रश्न यह नहीं था। मैंने प्रश्न किया था कि क्या विदेशी पर्यटकों के आगमन की संख्या में गत वर्ष की तुलना में कमी आई है अर्थात् यह प्रश्न वर्ष 2002-03 से संबंधित है। इसलिए मंत्री जी को "हां" या "नहीं" में उत्तर देना चाहिए था। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले वर्ष सरकार की भारत में विदेशी पर्यटकों के आगमन के बारे में क्या योजना थी और उनकी संख्या में कितनी कमी आई है ?

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, आपका क्वेश्चन हो गया।

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, the question was 'as compared to', 2003 has got only four months so far. So I could compare the figures of only present four months with the past corresponding period of four months. If you take that period, there is an increase of 11 per cent in tourist arrival. If you take the entire 2002, there has been a decline of 6.9 per cent as compared to 2001. That is primarily because of the aftermath of September 11 and so many other events which you are aware of. So, our general target is 2.6 million foreign tourists to come every year to this country, on an average. The figure has been hovering around that. During the last seven months, the figure has gone up and made about 12 to 13 per cent increase in terms of arrivals. In terms of foreign exchange, we have made an increase of about 16 per cent.

श्री ईसाम सिंह : मान्यवर, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के क्रम संख्या "ख" और "ग" का उत्तर दिया है। मैंने पूछा था कि यदि हां तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ? माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह तो मान लिया है कि इसमें 11 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : आप सीधे क्वेश्चन करिए।

श्री ईसाम सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के क्रम संख्या "ख" और "ग" के उत्तर में बताया है कि नए पर्यटन बाजार की अपेक्षाओं की पूर्ति के लिए भारत के वर्तमान पर्यटन उत्पादों में सुधार तथा इनका विस्तार करने की योजना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के सुधार के बिंदु क्या हैं ?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, the first and foremost requirement of good tourism policy is that your product should be good. All our areas which are visited by tourists should be of the first rate. I have already indicated to this House that we have evolved a new policy. We are giving a new trend to our places of tourist attraction. We are combining the elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life. And, hubs are being developed all over the country. For example, a hub has been developed in Kurukshetra of Haryana, Hampi in Karnataka and, in your own State of Uttar Pradesh — I think the hon. Member represents Uttar Pradesh — we are developing a hub in Varanasi, then, we have a hub in Mahabalipuram, etc. So, we are developing hubs in every State. Now, one can go and see the transformation that has taken place in the Red Fort and what new policies are there to attract more and more tourists. The first and foremost thing is that our product to be visited should be good.

The second thing is, the projection of our product should also be very vigorous. A very strong publicity campaign has also been launched on foreign media as well as on the national media.

The third aspect is, we should explore new markets. And that is exactly what we are doing. We are looking towards the East, Japan, China and the Far East. These are the new markets that we are exploring. I myself had personally been to China and Japan. We have entered into a new agreement with them. We are opening up new offices in Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. So, all these efforts are intended to produce a larger tourist flow into our country.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Sir, the measures taken by the hon. Minister are all most welcome and there thus seems now to be an improvement in many of our cultural sites. I have a question in two parts. The first part is : whether, in our foreign promotion, we are taking full advantage of our aviation offices — IA and AI — that we have around the world where they can be a symbiotic relationship between tourism and aviation. The second part is : whether, in view of the fact that Kashmir received a lot of negative publicity over the years and in view of the new situation which seems to be improving, are any attempts being made to once again project Kashmir as a tourist paradise.

SHRI JAGMOHAN : Sir, the reply to part one of his supplementary is “yes”. We are having co-ordination with Civil Aviation Ministry.

So far as the second part of his supplementary is concerned, I would submit that we are constantly in touch with the State Government and we are trying to give a boost to Kashmir tourism and also trying to project outside that Kashmir can be visited safely and there is no problem there.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि वे टूरिज्म डेवलपमेंट करने के लिए काफी नये स्टेप्स ले रहे हैं और उसमें नये डेस्टीनेशन्स आफिस खोलना भी शामिल है। आपके अभी जो डेस्टीनेशन्स हैं, आफिसिज हैं, क्या आपने उनका लेखा-जोखा लिया है ? क्या उनकी एक्टिविटीज हैं, उनमें क्या हो रहा है, यह आपने जानने की कोशिश की है ? अभी हम लोग फ्रैंकफर्ट गए थे और न्यूयार्क में भी हमने पता किया कि वहां के आफिसिज में कोई बैठता ही नहीं है। आपके जो टूरिस्ट आफिसिज हैं, उनका काम केवल वीआईपीज को रिसीव करना है। वे पहले उनको एयरपोर्ट पर रिसीव कर लें और होटल में जाकर उनकी हाजिरी बजा दें। यह उनका काम है।

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, ठीक है।

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता : सभापति महोदय, मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है...।

श्री सभापति : आपकी हाजिरी बजाई या नहीं? आप क्यों शिकायत कर रहे हो?

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता : सभापति महोदय, मुझे तभी पता चला कि यह चक्कर यहां भी है।
...(व्यवधान)...सभापति महोदय, आज यह काम तो इंटरनेट के जरिए से हो सकता है।

श्री सभापति : आपका क्वेश्चन हो गया।

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता : अब कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम काफी डेवलप हो गया है। इसलिए आप आफिसेज बनाने के बजाय पैसे को यहीं से गेनफुली यूज करें तो इसमें क्या हर्ज है?

SHRI JAGMOHAN : We are making full use of Internet. But, these offices are required to communicate with the various travel agents, tour operators and other bodies. They are mobiles. And, Sir, Frankfurt does not cover only Germany. It does cover a quiet good portion of the Western Europe. Therefore, these offices are needed. Even otherwise, we are revamping the Department of Tourism as well as the Department of Culture and we will make these offices more effective...*(Interruptions)*. I had been to Frankfurt. They are doing useful work there by sending quite a number of tourists from there. And, only in the last month, we had a very successful Berlin Festival there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 630.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, it is a very important issue.

श्री सभापति : इम्पोर्टेंट क्वेश्चन की बात नहीं है। देखिए, मुझे दूसरे मेम्बर्स का ध्यान रखना है जिन्होंने क्वेश्चन दिए हुए हैं।

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, the hon. Minister, as a promoter of tourism, has to take steps to promote tourism in Kashmir... *(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति : आप यह अच्छा नहीं कर रहे हैं।

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH : Sir, my problem is that foreign embassies are not working in that manner. We are not doing anything in foreign embassies because they are telling the people not to go. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what his Ministry is doing about that.

Special provisions for small investors

*630. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :