

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1022
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000
VISIT OF FOREIGN TOURISTS IN KONARK PURI AND CHILKA LAKE
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists visited Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether foreigners are allowed to visit interior tribal areas of Koraput and Dandakaranya areas;
- (c) if so, the steps so far been taken to protect the ethnicity of the locals; and
- (d) the amount allocated to provide more facilities and development of areas around these places during the above period?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a): According to the information received from the Govt. of Orissa, the number of foreign tourists who visited Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as follows:-

Places	Number of Foreign Tourists		
	1997	1998	1999
Konark	10061	9933	7089
Puri	13233	13021	10220
Chilka Lake	665	597	629

(b): As per information furnished by the State Government, there is restriction on the visit of foreign tourists to the areas of Gram Panchayat inhabited by primitive tribes in the undivided Koraput district including Dandakaranya areas.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs.552.05 lakhs, Rs.178.60 lakhs and Rs.301.90 lakhs respectively as Central financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for the development of tourism in the State including the areas of Konark, Puri and Chilka Lake.