

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:867
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
SINO-INDO COOPERATION TO PROMOTE TOURISM
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

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

- (a) whether India and China have agreed to cooperate in tourism sector;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed recently; and
- (c) if so, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned per annum as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Tourism of the Government of the Republic of India and the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China on the Implementation Plan for organized group travel by Chinese citizens to India was signed in New Delhi on 8th December, 2002. This was in pursuance of the bilateral tourism cooperation agreement signed on 14th January, 2002 between the two countries. With the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding, China has accorded 'Approved Destination Status' to India since China operates its outbound tourism through such a system only. This MOU will enable Chinese travel agencies to organize the outbound travel of groups of Chinese citizens to India and publicise such tour packages.

(c): Since the foreign exchange earnings from tourism is a function of various parameters such as total number of foreign tourist arrivals in a particular year, the per capita expenditure of foreign tourists estimated from the figures available from the RBI, the effect of price change on the per capita expenditure and exchange rate of dollar. It is extremely difficult for this Department to forecast the expenditure of the foreign tourists in future years and consequently the foreign exchange earnings. This Agreement/MOU will help in the increase of tourist arrivals from China to India.