

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4521
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
SEMINAR OF MINISTERS ON TOURISM
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Seminar of Union and State Tourism Ministers was held recently in Delhi on tourism sector; and
(b) if so, the details of deliberations alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had recently organized an All India State Tourism Ministers Conference in Delhi. A copy of the Resolutions passed during this Conference is placed at Annexure.

ANNEXURE IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4521 ANSWERED ON 25.04.2005 REGARDING SEMINAR OF MINISTERS ON TOURISM

Resolutions of All India State Tourism Ministers` Conference held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4th and 5th March, 2005

The Conference of All India State Tourism Ministers under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4th and 5th March 2005 unanimously passed the following resolutions:

1. Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment creation. States will work towards making it the priority sector in the States` planning process with enhanced financial outlays.
2. States will endeavour for development of quality manpower and `Athithi Devo Bhavah` campaign would be taken forward for quality manpower development in collaboration with the State Governments.
3. States would strive for development of world class infrastructure at tourism sites including improvement of urban infrastructure and ensuring better connectivity to major tourist destinations.
4. States would work towards streamlining their land policy by re-zoning and redefining land use to facilitate development of adequate hotel rooms in metro cities and at tourism sites.
5. Each State will strive to have one or more airport to be declared and equipped as an international airport allowing scheduled foreign airlines to land.
6. States agreed to work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destinations competitive. It was agreed that this alone would lead to increased tourist arrivals and generate higher revenues. The model of uniform taxation regime in each zone will also be examined by the States.
7. States would work toward reduction/removal of State Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to make the domestic air fare competitive for boosting domestic tourism . The declaration of ATF as `declared good`, where uniform CST of 4% is levied, will also be taken up for implementation. The proposal of a basic fare and a separate surcharge on ATF to the concerned destinations

will be examined by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

8. States would take up the issue of operation and maintenance of tourist infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships.

9. States resolved to make all tourist sites `Plastic Free` and also take necessary steps to develop the area in and around the important monuments `Free From Vehicular Traffic` and give due regard to the sustainability of the environment. There will also be an effort towards better maintenance of tourist destinations and also opening of souvenir shops and public conveniences at these sites.

10. States should give a separate and distinct `TV` series for Tourist Vehicles of recognized tourist transport operators.