

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:717

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004

SWAGAT FAST TRACK IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE COUNTERS AT AIRPORTS

Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to open Swagat Fast Track Immigration Clearance Counters at all international airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the foreign tourists will be benefited therefrom;
- (d) whether the Government propose to take steps to give thrust to tourism in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)(SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Airport Authority of India, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Civil Aviation have recently decided to introduce 'specialised passenger handling services' by appointing an Agency at all Indian airports with the name of 'Swagat Seva' which shall carry-out the task of clearing airport formalities and to escort interested passengers to the check-in and immigration counters.

(c): In-bound foreign tourists/passengers requiring particular assistance can avail the services of 'specialised passenger handling services' on round-the-clock-basis at all stages of the 'Swagat Seva' against payment of Rs.500/- to be charged from the international passenger.

(d) & (e): The development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism offers Central Financial Assistance to State Governments for tourism projects based on inter-se-priorities. During the years 2002-03 and 2003-04, the number of tourism projects and the amounts sanctioned in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were as follows:

Sr.No.	Name of the State	No. of	Amount	Sanctioned
	Projects			

(Rs. in Lakhs)

1.	Karnataka	20	1835.15	
2.	Tamil Nadu	19	1898.82	
3.	Andhra Pradesh	8	1454.00	

The tourism products of the States are also being promoted in the overseas and domestic markets through Indiatourism Offices