

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3730
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
BOTTLENECKS IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN TOURISTS
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of hurdles coming in the way of attracting foreign tourists to the country as appearing in Rashtradoot, Jaipur, Rajasthan dated June 14, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any study with regard to bottlenecks in the way of attracting foreign tourists; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. A few cases of cheating and mistreatment accorded to tourists have been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism and necessary action has been taken. The States/Union Territories have been requested to deploy tourist police at important tourist centres and destinations.

Some of the bottlenecks which are a deterrent in attracting foreign tourists to India are lack of tourist infrastructure, restricted air seat capacity, multitude of taxes levied by the Centre/State Governments and limited accommodation at major tourist destinations.

(c): The Ministry of Tourism has undertaken two studies on the following:

1. Taxes levied by the State/Central Governments in the India Tourism sector.
2. Impact of Civil Aviation Policies on Tourism in India

(d): The study on Taxes has highlighted the problem of high rate of taxation and multitude Central and State level taxes leading to high cost of packages. The study has recommended:

- i. Rationalisation of taxes like expenditure tax, service tax, custom duty and taxation on Aviation Turbine Fuel.
- ii. Need for introduction of new incentives to increase tourism expenditure and volume.
- iii. Promotion of investment in the industry.

The study on Impact on Civil Aviation Policy on Tourism in India has highlighted issues like high cost of air travel to India, shortage of air seat capacity, lack of air connectivity from major tourism generating markets etc.

The Ministry of Tourism is making concerted and continuous efforts to remove the above bottlenecks in cooperation with the concerned Ministries and the State Governments/Union Territories.