

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:675
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
VISIT OF FOREIGN TOURISTS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2004-05 and the number of tourists expected to visit during 2006 alongwith shortfall registered in the number of tourists during the years in comparison to that of the last three years;
- (b) the estimated amount of foreign exchange earned from the tourists during the said period;
- (c) whether the existing boarding facilities offered by the hotels in the country are sufficient for foreign tourists;
- (d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for the expansion of hotel industry;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to launch an intensive propagation drive abroad for attracting foreign tourists in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the number of Indian tourists who visited foreign countries during the said period alongwith estimated amount spent by them on such foreign tourists?

Answer

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

(a): Number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2004-05 alongwith corresponding figures for the last 3 years and also percent change is given below:-

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals(in Million)	Percentage Change over previous year
2004-05	3.54	(+) 22.9
2003-04	2.88	(+) 17.3
2002-03	2.45	(+) 1.0
2001-02	2.43	(-) 10.0

Going by the growth of about 14% in foreign tourist arrivals, observed during January-October, 2005, as also high growth during 2004-05 and 2003-04, it is expected that the trend would continue in the year 2006.

(b): Estimated amount of foreign exchange earned from the foreign tourists, as per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India, during the said period is given below:-

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings(In US\$ Million)
2004-05	5029
2003-04	4122
2002-03	3312
2001-02	3137

(c) and (d): There is a general feeling in the tourism industry that there is a shortage of hotel accommodation in the country,

particularly, during the peak tourist season and in big cities. In order to augment the hotel room capacity in the country, matter has been taken up with the State Governments as also with the Ministry of Urban Development. Ministries of Railways and Civil Aviation have also been requested to set up hotels at the surplus railway and airport lands at various places in the country.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): A major global media campaign in the Print, Electronic and Outdoor media has been launched in the major tourist generating markets such as Europe, South East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, USA, etc. The duration of the campaign is for four and half months w.e.f. mid November 2005. In addition, an Online Campaign in the World Wide Web w.e.f. October 2005 has also been launched to attract more foreign tourists in the country.

(g): Number of Indian tourists who visited foreign countries during the last 4 years, and; the estimated foreign exchange payments made, as per the information forwarded by Reserve Bank of India, is as follows:-

Year Indians going abroad(In Million) Foreign Exchange Payments (In US \$ Million)

2004-05	6.3	5526
2003-04	5.6	3511
2002-03	5.1	3341
2001-02	4.6	3014