

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:779

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

AGREEMENT WITH US AND BRITAIN UNDER OPEN SKY POLICY

Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with the United State of America and Britain under the open sky policy in tourism sector;
- (b) if so, whether the resultant increase in the number of foreign tourists in the coming years has been estimated;
- (c) if so, the number of foreign tourists arrivals in the country during the last year;
- (d) whether any scheme is being formulated for providing facilities to the tourists to make India a leading tourist destination in the world; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): The Government has signed an Air Services Agreement based on "Open Sky" principle with USA on 14th April, 2005. A revised Air Services Agreement has also been signed with UK on 8th September 2005, but this is not based on "Open Sky" principle. Both these agreements have resulted in enhanced air seat capacity for foreign tourists from these markets to various tourist destinations in India.

(c): The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2004 was 3.37 million.

(d) and (e): The Government has formulated the following schemes to develop tourism and provide better facilities to tourists:

- (i) Products/ infrastructure development for destinations and circuits;
- (ii) Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects;
- (iii) Capacity Building for Service Providers.

In addition to the above, the Government has also taken following steps:

1. Stimulated growth of hotel infrastructure
2. Enhanced connectivity through augmentation of air seat capacity
3. Stimulated improvement in road infrastructure