

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005  
SETTING UP OF BUSINESS FORUM BETWEEN INDIA AND AUSTRALIA  
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

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

- (a) whether India and Australia are propose to set up a business forum for tourism development in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been an increase in the number of tourists visiting India from Australia during the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): India and Australia have agreed to provide a Trade and Economic Framework (TEF) for facilitating bilateral trade and investment relations on a balanced and comprehensive basis through various avenues. The areas identified in the TEF for expansion of economic relations include infrastructure, energy, mining, services, textiles/clothing, food/beverages, ICT, tourism etc.

(c) & (d): Yes, sir. Foreign tourist arrivals to India from Australia in the current year for the period January to May are 34,293 as compared to 27,886 for the same period in the year 2004.