

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3038

TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.01.2019

Safety and security of foreign tourists

3038. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there are increasing number of crimes against foreign tourists in popular destinations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, during the last three years;
- (c) whether adverse perception about safety and security of tourists would seriously affect the tourists arrivals in the country and if so, Government's response thereto;
- (d) whether Government has set up any helpline for tourists and formulated a code of conduct for safe and ethical tourism to be adopted by major stakeholders and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (b): The "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, safety and security of tourists, both domestic and foreign tourists, is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

The Ministry of Tourism does not compile data on increasing number of crime against foreign tourists in popular destinations. However, the data provided by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) of cases registered under the crime against foreign tourists are given below:-

Sl. No. Particulars 2014 2015 2016 2017
1 Cases registered under crime against foreign tourist * 384 271 284 NA

*Source- National Crime Record Bureau.

State/UT wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under total crime against foreign tourists during 2014-16 is enclosed as Annexure.

(c): There is a continuous growth in tourists arrivals which is evident from the data given below:

Sl. No. Particulars 2014 2015 2016 2017
1. Foreign Tourist Arrivals(FTA) to India(million)** 7.68 8.03 8.80 10.04

**Source-Ministry of Tourism.

(d) to (e): Yes Sir, the Ministry of Tourism has taken following steps in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, including foreign tourists:

(i) The Ministry of Tourism along with all stakeholders, including the Tourism Departments of all States and UTs, have adopted the "Code of Conduct for Safe & Honourable Tourism" which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic right like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents in particular, women and children.

(ii) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 in 12 Languages including 10 international languages and in Hindi & English in February 2016, for domestic and foreign tourists to provide support service in terms of information relating to Travel in India and also offers appropriate guidance to tourists in distress while travelling in India.

(iii) The Ministry of Tourism has issued the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for travelers in September 2014 to stress on the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation for ensuring a pleasant experience to the tourists.

(iv) The Security of tourists is a State Government subject, however, with efforts of Ministry of Tourism, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations of Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have deployed the tourists police in one form or the other.

(v) The Ministry of Tourism conducts a constant dialogue with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, various tourism related institutions development and promotion of tourism in the country including safe and honourable Tourism.

(vi) Ministry of Tourism from time to time issues advisory to various State Governments and UT Administrations to ensure safety and security of the tourist.
