

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
DECLINE IN INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS .

96

Shri P. Rajeeve

Will the Minister of COALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRSTOURISM be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether there is any decrease in international tourists who visit India, due to global recession;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has any concrete plans to overcome this situation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

(SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) and (b): The number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2008 increased by 5.6% as compared to 2007. However, the number of FTAs during January-October 2009 declined by 7.0% over the corresponding period of 2008. This decline may be due to various reasons including global recession.

(c): Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects.

To increase the number of FTAs, Ministry of Tourism, through its Indiatourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars & workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical and Convention & Conference Tourism in the country.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.