

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 18.11.2010**

**ANSWERED ON**

**EXPLOITATION AT TOURIST DESTINATIONS .**

1037

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALCOALTOURISM be pleased to state :-

(a) whether concerned over safety of tourists and growing incidents of child abuse and illegal human trafficking, Centre has asked the State to crack the whip against possible forms of exploitation and ensure that tourist destinations are safe;

(b) whether in a communication, Ministry has asked States to prioritize awareness generation and sensitize stakeholders on safe and honourable tourism and adhere to a code of conduct recently circulated by the Centre;

(c) whether in a communication there is need to sensitize travellers, travel industry and citizens of the country; and

(d) if so, steps taken to implement the suggestions made?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

(SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) to (d): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, child abuse, human trafficking etc., is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories.

The Union Ministry of Tourism along with stakeholders has adopted the Code of Conduct for "Safe & Honourable Tourism" which is a set of guidelines to be voluntarily adopted by the stakeholders, primarily to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular, women and children. A pledge to adhere by the tenets of "Safe & Honourable Tourism" was formally signed by the stakeholders on 27th September, 2010.

Ministry of Tourism has also written a letter on 11th October 2010 to all State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, to take forward this initiative with active involvement of the official machinery as well as private sector and requesting them that awareness generation and training programmes be organized.