

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1409
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN THE COUNTRY

1409. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH:

DR. K. LAXMAN:

SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

SHRI BRIJ LAL:

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

- (a) the details of the number of tourists arrived in the country in the year 2023;
- (b) the number of tourists arrived in the country post-pandemic since 2021 and whether India is targeting to reach the figure of 100 million tourist arrivals in the long run;
- (c) the details of the number of tourists expected to arrive in the country in the next five years and whether Government has prepared any roadmap to boost the tourism industry in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): As per information received from the Bureau of Immigration, the details of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in the country during 2021 to 2023 are given below:

S. No.	Year	FTAs in India (in Thousands)
1.	2021	1527
2.	2022	6437
3.	2023 (Jan-Sep) (P)	6432

Source: Bureau of Immigration.

(P): Provisional

As per the study 'India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery', conducted by the Ministry of Tourism, Domestic tourism is likely to reach the pre-pandemic level, by 2024-25. Further on the basis of data received from BOI, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) are likely to reach pre-pandemic level by 2024.

(c) & (d): No such projection has been made, however, Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/initiatives over the years to give boost to the tourism sector in the country, details of which are:

- i. Launched Dekho Apna Desh initiative with the objective of creating awareness among the citizens about the rich heritage and culture of the country and encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- ii. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and upgrade manpower to provide better service standards.
- iii. Launched Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification Programme, a digital initiative that aims at creating an online learning platform with the objective of

- creating a pool of well trained professional tourist facilitators across the country to support tourists.
- iv. 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.
 - v. E-Visa is presently available under seven sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist Visa, e-Business Visa, e-Medical Visa, e-Medical Attendant Visa, E-Conference Visa, e-Ayush Visa and e-Ayush Attendant Visa. E tourist visa is available under 3 options – (i) 05 years with multiple entry; (ii) 1 year with multiple entry and (iii) one month with double entry.
 - vi. E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
 - vii. New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.
 - viii. GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council announced a cut in the tax rate on hotel room tariffs, a move aimed at giving a boost to the hospitality sector. The GST rate on hotel rooms with tariffs of up to Rs.7,500 per night has been cut to 12% from the existing 18%. Similarly, the tax on room tariff of above Rs.7,500 has been slashed to 18% from the existing 28%. There will be no GST on room tariffs of below Rs.1,000 per night.
 - ix. Under RCS UDAN Tourism, Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with Ministry of Civil Aviation and has got 53 tourism routes operational for better connectivity of important tourist places including Iconic sites.
