

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1264
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF RAPID GROWTH OF TOURISM

1264 SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that the rapid growth of tourism has led to its negative impacts, including environmental degradation, overcrowding, and exploitation of local communities;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps that are proposed to be taken by Government to address the negative impacts of tourism and promote responsible tourism practices while also increasing private sector investments in the tourism industry; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to develop sustainable and responsible tourist destinations across the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Yes, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and the following strategic pillars have been identified for development of sustainable tourism:

- i. Promoting Environmental Sustainability
- ii. Protecting Biodiversity
- iii. Promoting Economic Sustainability
- iv. Promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability
- v. Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism
- vi. IEC and Capacity Building
- vii. Governance

The Ministry also launched the Travel for LiFE Initiative to promote sustainable tourism in the country and to encourage the tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable tourism practices. Travel for LiFE aims to promote sustainable tourism in the country, through mindful and deliberate actions mobilized toward tourists and tourism businesses in the consumption of tourism resources.

The Ministry of Tourism has also revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective of developing sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. Through these initiatives, the Government seeks to ensure that tourism contributes positively to the economy while safeguarding the environment and benefiting local communities.
