

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3023
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

CARRYING CAPACITY OF MOUNTAIN TOURIST DESTINATIONS

3023 SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether carrying capacity studies have been conducted for Manali, Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital, Darjeeling and Gangtok and if so, the approved capacity versus actual annual footfall during the last three years;
- (b) whether any of these destinations are operating beyond assessed capacity and the regulatory action taken to enforce limits; and
- (c) whether a national carrying capacity framework for mountain tourism exists and if not, the timeline for its formulation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): The responsibility for the development, management, and assessment of tourist destinations, including carrying capacity studies, rests primarily with the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The Uttarakhand government has informed that in coordination with other concerned line departments, they have undertaken and supported various measures for effective management of tourists and vehicular movement. As part of these measures, an online registration has been started for tourists visiting Mussoorie with effect from 1st August 2025. The registration is being implemented at entry points, including Kincaig and Picture Palace, through the Dehradun Smart City portal.

Further, the state of Uttarakhand also informed that a year-long study regarding the carrying capacity is presently being undertaken by the Department of Statistics in respect of Kainchi Dham, an important tourist destination in Nainital district, 50 kms away from Nainital city center.

(c): Recognizing the need for a uniform safety ecosystem for adventure tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has developed the Model Adventure Tourism Safety Framework to guide States and Union Territories in establishing standardized regulations, institutional mechanisms and best practices for the safe and sustainable development of adventure tourism. The Framework provides for site-specific scientific carrying-capacity assessments, including limits on tourist numbers, campsite density, vehicular access and other relevant parameters. It also envisages the formulation of annual carrying-capacity guidelines for notified zones by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.
