

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4334
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2016**

IMPACT OF DEMONETISATION ON TOURISM

4334. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has been made aware that recent Demonetisation of 500, 1000 denomination currencies in the country has negatively affected the tourism sector and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;**
- (b) whether majority of the domestic and international tourists have cancelled their trips in this regard and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the time expected by the Government to overcome the situation;**
- (d) whether any special packages are planned to compensate the loss incurred by the tourism sector in this regard; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 9th - 30th November, 2016, i.e. post de-monetisation period, was 6.45 lakhs registering a positive growth of 4.6% over same period of previous year. State/UT-wise break-up of this information is not available.

(b): As per the information received from Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), no incidences of cancellation have been reported by their members due to demonetisation.

(c) to (e): After the announcement of demonetization by Government of India, the difficulties faced by the international tourists regarding changing of currency at the airport came to light and brought to the notice of Ministry of Tourism by the media report and representation received from IATO.

Accordingly, Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with concerned authorities to ease the difficulties faced by the foreign tourists in this connection. Details of the same are given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4334 ANSWERED ON 12.12.2016 REGARDING IMPACT OF DEMONETISATION ON TOURISM.

To ease the situation raised due to demonetization, Ministry of Tourism has taken up the following matter with the concerned organizations:

i. Ministry of Culture

- **Consider setting up of substantial number of “swipe” machines at ASI monuments at Agra and Fatehpur Sikri immediately for payment of entry tickets.**
- **Consider to allow approved tour operators to purchase entry tickets for their clients in advance on-line or by way of DD/cheque. This will avoid purchase of tickets across the counters by cash.**

ii. Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

- **The present limit of converting foreign currency to Indian rupees which is Rs.5,000/- may be enhanced to enable foreign tourists to take care of their incidental expenses.**
- **The foreign tourists/travelers may be permitted to return the unused Indian currency to the bank/authorized money changers on submission of original exchange receipts.**
- **To ensure that sufficient number of banks are open during the midnight hours when maximum foreign travellers arrive.**
- **Advise banks/foreign exchange dealers to deploy adequate number of persons to facilitate tourists/avoid long queues.**

iii. Ministry of Civil Aviation

- **Sufficient number of exchange counters/banks may be made available at the international airports during peak hours (midnight hours) at the arrival terminals.**

- **Deploy adequate number of persons to serve larger number of foreign tourists/travellers arriving in the country, particularly, during midnight hours.**
- **All concerned authorities at international airports such as AAI/GMR/GVK, etc in the country may be advised to put up proper signages in regard to authorized money changers/banks and availability of pre-paid taxi service providers.**
- **Authorities may also ensure that the pre-paid taxi service providers accept payment by credit cards.**

iv. All the Regional Directors of India Tourism offices located in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Guwahati were directed to monitor whether the pre-paid ticket counters are accepting credit cards or are deliberately refusing to use credit cards for accepting payments at the international airports under their jurisdiction. Keep a watch on the functioning of foreign exchange counters at the airports and assist the tourist to alleviate their problems. They were also directed to coordinate with the officials of airport authority/concessionaires like GMR, GVK, Traffic Police and also with taxi operators, banks and foreign exchange counters with view to providing satisfactory services and facilitation to the tourists. All officers were advised to send daily reports in the above mentioned matter.
