

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2178
ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018**

INFLUX OF TOURISTS IN FRAGILE ECOLOGICAL AREAS

2178. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for fragile ecological areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to control the influx of tourists into places like Uttarakhand which have a fragile ecological system;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the regulations made by the Government to prevent illegal construction in such areas?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a): The implementation of Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) has been launched by the Ministry of Tourism in association with Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) in October 2016. The criteria aims to fully implement sustainable tourism practices, consistent with the best environment and heritage protection standards, such that the present tourism resource requirements optimize both, local community benefit and future sustainable uses.

(b) & (c): One of the key concerns sought to be addressed while framing the Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India is the carrying capacity of the area, the definition of which includes inter-alia assessing the optimum number of people, including tourists, that a destination or sector, including in places like Uttarakhand which have a fragile ecological system, can support without suffering environmental degradation.

(d): The State and Local Government bodies are empowered to frame rules and regulations for preventing illegal construction in their areas of jurisdiction including in fragile ecological areas.
