

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2267
ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018**

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

2267. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign tourists arrivals have increased significantly in the year 2017 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) visiting India are also being counted as foreign tourists; and**
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time since which this is being done?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)**

(a) & (b): Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) at Port Blair Airport/Seaport from 1st January, 2017 - 28th July, 2017 were 8696 as compared to FTAs of 6759 during corresponding period of previous year.

The increase in FTAs to India as a whole and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, in particular, is due to the various steps taken by Government of India to boost tourism in the country, which inter-alia include the following:

- i. Release of global and international campaigns under the Incredible India brand-line.**
- ii. Campaigns on social media and Ministry's website.**
- iii. 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline 1800111363 launched in 12 International Languages including Hindi and English.**

- iv. Providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and promotion of tourism.**
- v. Identification, diversification, development and promotion of Niche products like Cruise, Adventure, Medical, Wellness, Golf, Polo, Eco, Film and Meeting Incentives Conference and Exhibition (MICE).**

(c) and (d): Arrival of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) along with the FTAs is counted for compilation of International Tourist Arrivals since the year 2014 in line with the UNWTO norms.
