

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3711
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018**

BUDGET TOURISM

3711. SHRI G. HARI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to use budget touring to boost tourism in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the move could add to a domestic tourism boom in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether India's tourism sector grew over 10% in the six months ending September, 2017 compared to about 8% in the corresponding period during the previous year; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination catering to all segments of tourists including budget travellers both in the international as well as domestic markets.

The Ministry of Tourism under a voluntary scheme approves Homestays/Bed & Breakfast establishments and Guest Houses as per Guidelines to provide standardized services and facilities which primarily cater to the budget tourists. Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism also classifies/re-classifies hotels in various star categories which cater to tourists of various budget segments. The guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism for approval/classification/re-classification of operational hotels stipulate that hotels of 1, 2, 3 and 4 star categories availing subsidy/tax benefits/other benefits from the Central/State Government would be subject to a lock-in

period of 8 years so that these hotels continue to serve as budget category hotels.

The Ministry of Tourism launched the ‘Swadesh Darshan Scheme’ for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits and the ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) Scheme to beautify and improve amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage sites to cater to religious, mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner. The Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) from 2014 to 2016 are:

Year	DTV	Growth (%)
2014	1282801629	12.3
2015	1431973794	11.6
2016*	1613551505	12.7

*** Provisional**

(d) and (e): The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India during April to September, 2017 were 42.76 lakhs (provisional) registering growth of 16.8% over same period of previous year.
