

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1098
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018**

IMPACT OF ZIKA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR

1098. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards outbreak of the Zika Virus in some parts of the tourist places in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether some countries have issued advisory to their Nationals, not to travel/postpone trips to the area, part of India's popular tourist places and if so, the details thereof, country-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact on Indian tourism by such a move;**
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the likely loss of foreign exchange revenue therefrom; and**
- (e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to stop the spread of such virus in tourist places of the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a): As per the information received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the cases of Zika Virus Disease have been reported from the States of Rajasthan (Jaipur), Gujarat (Ahmedabad)

and Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal, Vidisha, Sehore, Hoshangabad, Sagar and Raisen) during the period of September to November, 2018.

(b): No advisory has been issued by other countries for travel to India, except in the case of the Republic of Korea which has advised their citizens to take precautionary measures while travelling to Jaipur such as use of mosquito repellent, wear long sleeved tops and pants etc.

(c) and (d): There has been an increase in number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India and the Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism in India during 2018. The number of FTAs in India during January - November 2018 were 9.37 million (provisional) registering growth of 5.6% over same period of 2017. The FEEs through tourism in India during January - October 2018 were Rs.1,58,846/- crore registering growth of 11.9% over same period of 2017.

(e): As per information received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the following steps have been taken to contain further spread of Zika virus disease:

- The Zika action plan was implemented in all the affected States.**
- Central teams were deployed to Jaipur (Rajasthan), Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and to Bhopal, Vidisha, Sehore and Sagar Districts of Madhya Pradesh to assist these States in containment operations.**
- Hon'ble HFM and senior officers of the Ministry reviewed the situation on regular basis and modulated the action for containment.**
- Union Secretary Health & FW reviewed the situation and preparedness to Zika virus diseases in all States through video conferencing with the States.**
- Advisory were issued to all States/UTs to strengthen vector control activities and surveillance for Zika virus disease.**
- Senior officers of the Ministry visited the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to oversee the containment operations.**

- **Joint Monitoring Group under the chairmanship of DGHS met regularly to review the current situation of Zika virus disease in the affected States.**
- **Indian Council of Medical Research supported the Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) in the affected States for testing clinical samples.**
- **IEC material prepared by MoHFW were provided to the three affected States.**
- **Surveillance strategy to ensure that the disease has not spread beyond the containment zone has been provided to the State of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Financial support was ensured through National Health Mission.**
