

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2929
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023**

**STREAMLINING OF VISA APPROVAL
PROCESS TO INCREASE TOURISTS**

2929. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposal of the Government to deal with expected increase of 12 per cent in inbound tourism in the country in 2023;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to streamline processes like visa approval in the tourism sector to ensure the best utilization of India's tourism potential; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the tourism generating markets to promote various Indian tourism products and tourism destinations of the country to increase India's share of the global tourism market. Further, augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, projection of the country as a 365 days' tourist destination, promotion of sustainable tourism etc. have worked to increase tourism in India. Further, in order to boost visitor arrival Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has declared "Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023".

In year 2022, India recorded Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA's) of 6.19 million with a growth of 305.4% over same period of the

previous year which account for Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) of Rs.1,35,543 crore with a growth of 106.77%.

(c) & (d): The facilitative visa regime is a pre requisite for increasing inbound tourism. The Ministry of Tourism takes the initiative with Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs for achieving the same. At present, e-visa facility is being extended to the nationals of 167 Countries under 5 sub-categories i.e. 'e-Tourist visa', 'e-Business visa', 'e-medical visa', 'e-Medical Attendant Visa' and 'e-Conference Visa'. The latest country added is Morocco. The e-Visa is valid for entry through 29 designated airports and 5 designated seaports. The visa fee has been rationalized and has been fairly reduced wherein e-Tourists Visa fee reduced to \$80 for 5 years, \$40 for 1 year and one-month e-tourist Visa fee reduced to \$10 for lean season and \$25 for peak season.
