

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†688
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023**

REVENUE EARNED FROM FOREIGN TOURISTS

†688. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists who visited the country and the amount of foreign exchange earned during each of the last two years;**
- (b) whether there has been a decline in the arrival of foreign tourists in the country during the current year;**
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to attract foreign tourists and encourage related industries?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): As per information received from Bureau of Immigration, the details of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in the country during 2021 and 2022 are given below:

| Sr. No. | Year | FTAs in India (in Lakh) |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | 2021 | 15.27 |
| 2. | 2022 | 61.91 |

and the Foreign Exchange Earned (FEE) through tourism during 2021 and 2022 are given below:

| Sr. No. | Year | FEE through tourism (in Rs. Crore) |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | 2021 | 65,070 |
| 2. | 2022^{#1} | 1,34,543 |

#1: Provisional Estimates

(b) & (c): No, Sir. As per provisional data received from Bureau of

Immigration, India registered 31.34 Lakh Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during January to April 2023 as compare to 11.78 Lakh FTAs during the same period of 2022.

(d): Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/ initiatives to increase the inflow of tourists and encourage related industries as per details given below:

- (i) Launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.**
- (ii) Launched National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations.**
- (iii) 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.**
- (iv) Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for nationals of 167 countries.**
- (v) E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.**
- (vi) Development and promotion of 'Niche Tourism' products to attract tourist with specific interest and to ensure repeat visits for the unique products in which India has a comparative advantage.**
- (vii) Promoting India as a holistic tourism destination including its various tourism sites and products through Ministry's social media handles and website.**
- (viii) Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- (ix) New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/ Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.**
- (x) Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%, those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.**
- (xi) On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 59 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the RCS UDAN Scheme, for which Ministry of Tourism extends financial support in form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 51 of these routes have been operationalized till date.**

- (xii) In order to boost visitor arrival, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has declared “Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023”.**
- (xiii) To increase the footfall of international tourists in Buddhist destinations in India, Ministry of Tourism had organized international quiz competitions focused on the life of Buddha and various places/sites associated with Buddha and Buddhism in India. The objective of the quiz competition was to increase the footfall of international tourists in Buddhist destinations in India, and to arouse the curiosity among the youth and students in Buddhist countries such as China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka etc. to visit India.**
- (xiv) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and various State Tourism departments attended WTM 2022 in London, FITUR 2023 in Madrid, ITB 2023 in Berlin, ATM 2023 in Dubai and IMEX 2023 in Frankfurt, Germany. During the participation, the Ministry of Tourism had B2B meetings with foreign Tour Operators, Travel Agents and various other stakeholders. The Ministry also organized the Press Meet to apprise the travel media of India’s preparedness to welcome international tourists post pandemic. Further, India pavilion showcased varied tourism products including niche tourism products such as cuisine, wellness, yoga, wildlife, and luxury etc.**
