

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1740
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

**DEVELOPMENT OF LAKSHADWEEP AS INTERNATIONAL
TOURIST DESTINATION**

1740. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Lakshadweep has huge potential to be developed as an international tourist destination;
- (b) if so, the scope of its development;
- (c) the efforts which have been made by Government to enhance the air and sea connectivity and other infrastructure in Lakshadweep to make it a popular tourist destination; and
- (d) the domestic and international tourist inflow during the last three years in Lakshadweep?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) and (b): Identification and development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism has provided financial assistance under the 'Swadesh Darshan', and 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation & Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' Schemes for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country. The projects under the schemes are identified for development in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

Under SD2.0, Lakshadweep has been identified for development.

(c): Following initiatives have been taken to enhance the air and sea connectivity in Lakshadweep:

1. Development & Upgradation of Agatti Airport: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has conveyed in-principal approval for Development and Expansion of Agatti Airport and DPR has been prepared by Airport Authority of India (AAI) in December 2022.
2. Sea plane operation in Lakshadweep: Under RCS-UDAN, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) identified Minicoy, Agatti and Kavaratti for development of water aerodromes for sea plane operation. AAI has informed that Kalpeni, Bitra, Kadmat, Kiltan and Bangaram Water Aerodromes are identified for air

connectivity under UDAN 4.2 and following routes have been awarded to M/s SpiceJet Limited:

- i. Kalpeni-Minicoy-Kalpeni
- ii. Kavaratti-Bitra-Kavaratti
- iii. Kavaratti-Kadmat-Kavaratti
- iv. Kavaratti-Kalpeni-Kavaratti
- v. Kavaratti-Kiltan-Kavaratti
- vi. Kochi-Bangaram-Kochi
- vii. Kochi-Bitra-Kochi
- viii. Kochi-Kalpeni-Kochi

(d): Ministry of Tourism compiles the number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV) to different States and Union Territories (UTs) based on the information received from them. Information on DTVs and FTVs to Lakshadweep during year 2020, 2021 & 2022 is given below:

Year	DTV (in thousand)	FTV (in thousand)
2020	3.5	0.4
2021	135.4	0.0
2022	22.8	0.1

Source: UT Administration Lakshadweep
