

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.934**  
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

**GROWTH OF THE TOURISM SECTOR**

934 SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) the specific measures and policies the Central Government has implemented to foster the exponential growth witnessed in the tourism sector in recent years, and in what manner these efforts have contributed to the overall development of the sector and the economy as a whole;
- (b) whether Government can provide an assessment of the impact of its initiatives and efforts on growth of tourism including statistical data on increase in tourist arrivals, revenue generation, and job creation in the sector; and
- (c) the additional plans Government has in place to sustain and further accelerate this growth in the future?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/measures over the years to expand tourism in different areas to give boost to tourism industry in the country as per details given below:

- i. Development of tourism related infrastructure is done through projects sanctioned under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Financial assistance has also been provided to the State Governments/Union Territories for organizing fairs/festivals & tourism related events under Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) Scheme.
- iv. Dekho Apna Desh initiative launched with the objective to encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- v. Thematic tourism like wellness tourism, culinary tourism, rural, eco-tourism, etc. amongst other niche subjects are promoted so as to expand the scope of tourism into other sectors as well.
- vi. 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.
- vii. e-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.

- viii. 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.
- ix. 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 the form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 53 of these routes have been operationalized to improve air connectivity to tourist destinations.
- x. Ministry of Tourism is running Pan-India Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Program, a digital initiative that aims at creating an online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators/Guides across the country and generating employment opportunities at local level.
- xi. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.

The details of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2020 to 2022 are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	FTAs in India (in Lakh)
1.	2020	27.4
2.	2021	15.3
3.	2022#	61.9

#: Provisional; Source: Bureau of Immigration

Data pertaining to revenue generated through tourism is not maintained by Ministry of Tourism. However, the Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism during 2020 to 2022 are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	FEEs through tourism (in Rs. Crore)
1.	2020	50,136
2.	2021	65,070
3.	2022#	1,34,543

#: Provisional Estimates

As per estimation in accordance with 3rd Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for intervening years' subsequent years namely, the contribution of tourism to employment of the country for year 2019-20 to 2021-22 is given below:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Share in jobs (in %)	13.50	12.91	12.66
Direct (%)	5.89	5.63	5.52
Indirect (%)	7.61	7.28	7.14
Direct + Indirect jobs due to tourism (in Million)	69.44	68.07	70.04

Note: NCAER computations from respective rounds of Periodic Labour Force Survey.

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