

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.153
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TOURIST ARRIVALS

153. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:

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

- (a) the decline in number of domestic and foreign tourists in 2020 compared to the corresponding period in the previous three years;
- (b) the decline in the number of tourists on pilgrimage so far in the current financial year;
- (c) the specific steps taken up by Government to increase the flow of domestic and foreign tourists to pre-COVID levels; and
- (d) the estimated revenue loss to the tourism industry so far in 2020;
- (e) whether Government has provided any special incentive to the tourism sector to overcome COVID impact; and
- (f) if not, whether Government is considering any such proposal and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): On the basis of information received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI), details of Foreign Tourists Arrivals (FTA) during 2020 and corresponding period in the previous three years are given below:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals(FTA)(in Million)	Annual growth
2017	10.04	--
2018	10.56	5.20%
2019	10.93	3.50%
2020	2.68	-75.50%

Further, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India compiles yearly data on domestic tourists visits (DTV) with time a time lag of one year. Hence data on DTV for year 2020 is not yet compiled. However, details of DTV during previous three years are given below:

Year	Domestic Tourists Visits(DTV)(in Million)	Annual Growth
2017	1657.6	--
2018	1854.9	11.90%
2019	2321.98	25.30%

(b): Purpose wise domestic Tourists Visits is not maintained by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

(c): Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination and as part of its on-going activities, annually releases domestic and international print, electronic and online media campaigns under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products in the different States and Union Territories of the country. In order to increase the flow of domestic and foreign tourists the Ministry has been organizing series of webinars showcasing various tourism assets and products of the country under Dekho Apna Desh initiative. Since April 2020, over 73 webinars have been organized wherein a large number of people participated.

(d): No formal study has been instituted for assessment of loss of revenue in 2020. However, several rounds of discussions and brainstorming sessions with industry stakeholders indicate massive loss of revenue, foreign exchange and jobs. In view of the highly unorganized nature of the sector, the impact in numerical terms can only be ascertained in due course.

(e): With an aim to incentivize stakeholders in the Tourism industry, the Guidelines for the Scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) for providing financial support to stakeholders for the promotion of Domestic Tourism have been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the Scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders. Additional promotional activities have been incorporated including online promotions and the extent of financial assistance permissible has been enhanced. Tourism Departments of State Governments / UT Administrations are also now eligible for obtaining financial support under the scheme.

(f): does not arise.
