

## Tourism

9.82 Tourism is an important sector which not only provides employment opportunities but helps to earn valuable foreign exchange. The tourism development also helps achieve balanced and sustainable regional growth by providing employment opportunities for unskilled workers specifically from the rural areas and also developing interior and remote areas. However, the development of tourism has been constrained by poor accessibility to various places of tourist interest, due to bottlenecks in infrastructure and other facilities. There is an urgent need to remove all these constraints for development of tourism.

9.83 The number of foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings during the period 1995-2001 is given below (Table 9.7).

9.84 There has been a decline of about 20 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals and 16 per cent

in the foreign exchange earnings through tourism in the two months of September and October 2001. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in USA on September 2001, a programme to meet the adverse conditions arising out of this incident has been drawn up and is being implemented.

**TABLE 9.7**  
**Performance of the Tourism Sector**

year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (in Lakh)	Per cent increase	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (in million US\$)	Per cent increase
1995-96	21.9	-	2,714	-
1996-97	23.3	6.6	2,878	6.1
1997-98	23.7	1.6	2,914	1.2
1998-99	24.0	1.1	2,993	2.7
1999-00	25.2	5.0	3,055	2.1
2000-01	26.8	6.0	3,168	4.3
2001-02 (Apr-Oct)	12.3	-6.3	1,636	-1.3