

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 3346

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 42

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Mr M R Sayedali Shah (DA) to ask the Minister of Tourism:

Whether his department has made any progress with establishing a single method of data (a) collection and (b) collation of international tourist arrival figures; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NW4243E

Mr M R Sayedali Shah (DA)
SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT
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PRESS

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM ANSWERS:

a) The National Department of Tourism uses official data collected and released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) to monitor key tourism indicators such as the performance of the accommodation industry, tourist arrivals to South Africa as well as the direct contribution of tourism to the economy of the country. The department has worked closely with Stats SA and key departments such as the Department of Home Affairs as well as the South African Reserve Bank in developing and improving some of the methodologies used to collect and release tourism related statistics currently released by Stats SA. The Department together with Stats SA and South Africa Tourism (SAT) are in a process of developing one methodology that will be used to measure domestic tourism performance and the first report will be piloted in 2014/15. This process is led by the department and the implementation is done by Stats SA.

b) The Department together with Stats SA and SAT has developed the methodology that is used to calculate the number of tourists from the total foreign arrivals which was implemented in 2009. Stats SA led this process and the first release of tourist arrivals to South Africa was with effective from 2009. Therefore, there is currently a single method of measuring tourist arrivals to South Africa which is implemented by Stats SA to produce official statistics for this indicator.

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