

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1107
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY

1107. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether Government has any action plan to boost tourism in the country to attract foreigners in the country and also upgrade existing tourist places with latest facilities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government also proposes to promote tourism at various wildlife sanctuaries in different parts of the country, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/initiatives to boost tourism in the country to attract foreign & domestic tourists as per details given below:

- i. 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.
- ii. 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 156 countries.
- iii. E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
- iv. Adopt a Heritage Project for development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites.
- v. Development and promotion of 'Niche Tourism' products to attract tourist with specific interest and to ensure repeat visits for the unique products in which India has a comparative advantage.
- vi. Promoting India as a holistic tourism destination including its various tourism sites and products through Ministry's social media handles and website.
- vii. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.
- viii. New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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 form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 51 of these routes have been operationalized till date.

The Ministry of Tourism is also promoting tourism to the country by providing financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies 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 for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities to provide an enriching tourism experience to the visitors.

(b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism promotes the tourism destinations of the country in a holistic manner including Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.
