

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2615
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018**

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR GUIDES

2615. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Tourism has a great potential to provide employment opportunities to the youth and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to start training and certification programme for the guides, especially for the State of Punjab and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has started any scheme to enable the foreign tourists to get in touch with the guides through a web portal; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a): Yes, Madam. Tourism is an important source of employment & foreign exchange earnings in India. It has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind – from the most specialized to the unskilled and hence play a major role in creation of additional employment opportunities.

As per the 2nd Tourism Satellite Account of India (TSA) – 2009-10 and its subsequent estimates, the contribution of tourism employment to total employment of the country during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 was 10.17%, 10.78%, 11.49% and 12.36% respectively.

(b) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the guidelines for Selection and Grant of Guide License to Regional Level Tourist Guides (RLG 2011). As per these guidelines, the requirement of tourist guides is assessed region-wise including the State of Punjab, based on the inbound tourist arrivals, number of ASI monuments, available licensed guides, growth potential, availability of assignments to guides and all other relevant factors and is normally done once in two years by the Ministry through a pre-defined process.

Further, Ministry of Tourism has introduced Tour Guide and Heritage Tour Guide courses for training and certification for the guides. The duration of these two courses are 420 hours and 330 hours, respectively and are open to youth in the age group of 18 to 28 years who are minimum 10th pass.

Ministry of Tourism does not has any scheme to enable the foreign tourists to get in touch with the guides through a web portal.
