

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.904  
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022**

**PLAN TO MAKE INDIA A FAVOURITE TOURIST DESTINATION**

**904. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to make India a favourite Tourist Destination of the world in the coming years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for reviving the tourist industry of the country post Covid era; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps over the years to provide a better experience for the tourists and to make India a favourite tourist destination of the world in the coming years as per details given below:**

- i. Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country.**
- ii. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations.**
- iii. Adopt a Heritage Project for development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites.**
- iv. 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.**

- v. **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.**
- vi. **E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.**
- vii. **Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification Programme, a digital initiative that aims at creating an online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained professional tourist facilitators across the country to assist tourists.**
- viii. **Conducting Programmes under the ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- ix. **New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.**
- x. **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.**
- xi. **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.**

**(c) & (d): The details of various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures announced by the Government of India, which are expected to revive the tourism in the country are given below:**

- i. **The Government announced Atmanirbhar Bharat Package vide which Rs.3.00 lakh crore collateral free automatic loan was made available for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The loan will have 4- year tenure and 12-month moratorium.**
- ii. **Under Atmanirbhar Bharat package, PF contribution of both employer and employee was reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for three months.**

- iii. **Return filing deferred for three months with no penal interest for companies up to Rs.5.00 Crore, rest @ 9% penal interest.**
- iv. **The Government waived off PF contribution for three months for organisations with less than 100 pax and 90% of their employees earn below Rs.15000.**
- v. **Deferment of Tax Collected as Source (TCS) up to October 2020.**
- vi. **The Central Government also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and Goods and Service Tax (GST) Act for varying period in the wake of COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.**
- vii. **The Government announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 3.0 on 31.3.2021 to support eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their business. The scope of the scheme was enlarged to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism and Leisure & Sporting sectors. Provision of additional corpus of Rs. 50,000 crores had also been made for hospitality sector. The validity of ECLGS (ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0) had been extended till 31.03.2023 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh crores are issued. The details of guarantees issued under the scheme are given below:**

<b>Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism Data As on 30-06-2022</b>			
<b>Industry Nature</b>	<b>ECLGS Scheme</b>	<b>No of Guarantees Issued</b>	<b>Loan Amount Guaranteed (Rs. In Cr)</b>
<b>Hotel, Restaurants, Tourism</b>	<b>ECLGS 1.0</b>	<b>96734</b>	<b>3668.59</b>
	<b>ECLGS 1.0 EXTENSION</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>202.13</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>97775</b>	<b>3870.72</b>
<b>Hotel, Restaurants, Tourism</b>	<b>ECLGS 2.0</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>3421.46</b>
	<b>ECLGS 2.0 EXTENSION</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34.47</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>223</b>	<b>3455.93</b>
<b>Travels and</b>	<b>ECLGS 3.0</b>	<b>2926</b>	<b>1880.57</b>

<b>Tourism</b>	<b>ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>342.67</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3493</b>	<b>2223.24</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>ECLGS 3.0</b>	<b>3478</b>	<b>6154.45</b>
	<b>ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1781</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>4598</b>	<b>7935.45</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>106089</b>	<b>17485.34</b>

- viii. On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the Government announced a stimulus package to boost diverse sectors of economy affected by COVID-19 pandemic and provide impetus for growth and employment measures. The package comprises a total of 17 measures in three broad categories, which included 'Economic relief from Pandemic, with special focus on health and reviving travel and tourism sectors' and 'Impetus for Growth and employment'.
- ix. With a view to prepare for a post-COVID 19 revival, the Ministry has formulated and issued detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene for hotels, restaurants, B&Bs/Homestays and Tourism Service Providers on 08.06.2020 to facilitate smooth resumption of business.
- x. An initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry) has been developed for effective implementation of Guidelines/SOPs issued with reference to COVID-19 and beyond for safe operations of Hotels, restaurants, B&Bs and other units.
- xi. Validity of approval or certification of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval/re-approval and classification/re-classification have expired/were likely to expire was extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- xii. Owing to the situation which arose out of COVID- 19 pandemic, Ministry of Tourism in consultation with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare issues guidelines/directions to the Tourism Stakeholders, Hotels and Restaurants to facilitate smooth resumption of business.
- xiii. Ministry of Tourism is running the "Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Tourism Service Sector (LGSCATSS)", under which, loan upto Rs.10.00 lakh is extended to each Tour

**Operators/ Travel Agents/ Tourist Transport Operators approved/recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, upto Rs.1.00 lakh is extended to each Regional Tourist Guide/ Incredible India Tourist Guide approved/recognized by the Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides approved/ recognized by the State Govt./ UT Administration.**

**Purpose of the LGSCATSS is to provide guarantee coverage for the loans provided by the Scheduled Commercial Banks to the above mentioned beneficiaries, to discharge their liabilities and restart their business affected due to Covid-19 pandemic. Validity of the said scheme is till 31.03.2023 or till the guarantee of Rs.250.00 crores are issued under the scheme, whichever is earlier and is applicable to all eligible loans sanctioned under the scheme on or after 04.10.2021 (issuance of LGSCATSS guidelines by NCGTC) till 31.03.2023. No guarantee fee will be charged from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for the credit facilities provided under the Scheme. The scheme is operational through 18 scheduled Commercial Banks.**

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