

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5166  
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023**

**RELIEF PACKAGE FOR TOURISM SECTOR IN KERALA**

**5166. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to support the tourism sector in Kerala especially the homestay and small scale houseboat and restaurant ventures that suffered heavy losses due to lockdown and subsequent dip in tourism in Kerala; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and allocation of relief packages or support schemes if announced or under consideration?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) & (b): The Government of India announced various relief measures for Industry including tourism sector of the country including Kerala. The details of the same are placed at Annexure. The measures also included support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the tourism sector.**

**The Ministry of Tourism has also been conducting sensitization workshops for promotion of Homestays/Bed & Breakfast establishments and their classification.**

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## **ANNEXURE**

### **STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5166 ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023 REGARDING RELIEF PACKAGE FOR TOURISM SECTOR IN KERALA.**

**Following are the various relief measures announced by the Government for redeveloping post-COVID tourism sector of the country including Kerala:**

- (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, Provident Fund contribution of both employer and employee was reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by Employees' Provident Fund Organization (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 organizations with less than 100 pax and 90% of their employees earn below Rs.15000.**
- (v) Deferment of Tax Collected at 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) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was launched in May, 2020 as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to support eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their businesses. Under the scheme, 100% credit guarantee is extended to the lending institutions for loans extended by them under the scheme to eligible borrowers. The admissible guarantee limit under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 4.5 lakh crore to Rs. 5 lakh crore, with the additional**

**guarantee cover of Rs. 50,000 crore earmarked exclusively for the Hospitality and related enterprises including Civil Aviation sector.**

- (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) Ministry of Tourism launched 'Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected Tourism Service Sector (LGSCATSS)', which aims at extending collateral free loan to the distressed tourism sector to help them discharge their liabilities and restart their business affected due to Covid-19 pandemic under this scheme, collateral free Loan upto Rs.10.00 lakh each may be availed by Ministry of Tourism approved Tour operator/Travel Agents/Tourist Transport Operators and upto Rs.1.00 lakh each may be availed by RLGs/IITGs approved by Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides approved by State Government/UT Administration. The scheme is already operational through 18 Scheduled Commercial Banks. Validity of the scheme has been extended by one more year i.e. till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 or till the guarantee of Rs. 250.00 crore are issued under the scheme.**
- (x) 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.**
- (xi) 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.**
- (xii) With an aim to incentivize stakeholders in the Tourism industry, the Guidelines for the scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) for providing financial support to stakeholders for the promotion of Domestic Tourism have been modified to enhance**

**the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders. Additional promotional activities have been incorporated including online promotions and the extent of financial assistance permissible has been enhanced. The Guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance Programme under the Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme has been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders in the tourism industry.**

- (xiii) For the purpose of restarting inbound tourism and attracting foreign tourists in the country, Government of India extended first 5 lakh visas to the foreign tourists from potential tourism markets, free of cost. The benefit of free of charge visa will be available only once per tourist during the issuance of the first 5 lakh tourist visas.**
- (xiv) 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.**
- (xv) Ministry of Home Affairs restored e-Tourist Visa for foreign nationals of 166 countries as on date.**

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