

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.669
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023**

STEPS TO MAKE INDIA A TOP TOURIST DESTINATION

669. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for making India a top tourist destination in the world;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to revive Tourism industry of the country post Covid era?**

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 tourists to make India a top tourist destination in the world as per details given below:

- i. Launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.**
- ii. Lunched National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations.**
- iii. 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.**
- iv. 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 165 countries.

- v. E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.**
- vi. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- vii. New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.**
- viii. 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.**
- ix. 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 to provide air connectivity to tourist destinations.**

(c): The details of various relief measures announced by the Government for redeveloping post-COVID tourism sector of the country is given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.669 ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023 REGARDING STEPS TO MAKE INDIA A TOP TOURIST DESTINATION.

The following are the various relief measures announced by the Government for redeveloping post-COVID tourism sector of the country:

- 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 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. As per inputs received from National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), the agency operating the scheme, under ECLGS total 203180 guarantees amounting to a sum of Rs.22015.82 crore have been issued to Travel, Tourism, Hotel, Restaurant etc. The detail is given below:

ECLGS data on Hospitality and related enterprises Sector as on 30.11.2022

ECLGS – TRAVEL AND TOURISM DATA		
Scheme Type	No of Guarantees Issued	Loan Amount Guaranteed (Rs. in Cr)
ECLGS 3.0	2943	1935.80
ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION	668	393.12
TOTAL	3611	2328.94
ECLGS - HOTELS, RESTAURANTS ETC. DATA		
Scheme Type	No of Guarantees Issued	Loan Amount Guaranteed (Rs. in Cr)
ECLGS 3.0	3486	6197.5
ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION	1336	2468
ECLGS 2.0	219	3437.11
ECLGS 2.0 EXTENSION	4	34.47
ECLGS 1.0	96740	3674.72
ECLGS 1.0 EXTENSION	97784	3875.08
TOTAL	199569	19686.88
Grand Total	203180	22015.82

- viii. On 28th 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 31st March 2022**
- 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 has restored e-Tourist Visa for foreign nationals of 165 countries. Also, after having recognized the increased vaccination coverage across the globe and in consultation with the stakeholders, the Government of India resumed scheduled commercial international passenger services to/from India w.e.f. 27th March 2022.**
- xvi. To revive the Tourism Industry from the Covid-19 impact, 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 MLIs by NCGTC for the credit facilities provided under the Scheme. The scheme is operational through 18 scheduled Commercial Banks.
