

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†92
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

SCHEMES TO BOOST CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN HASTINAPUR

†92.SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism plays a major role in strengthening the country's economy, which had come to a standstill in almost every country in the world;**
- (b) whether the Government has made any effective strategy to compensate the losses suffered by the tourism sector;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government has made any plan to boost tourism activities in Hastinapur?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Yes, Sir. Tourism plays a very important role in strengthening the country's economy. The pandemic did impact the industry across the world. The Total Tourism GDP (TGDP) as a percentage of Total GDP declined in the year 2020-21 to 1.50 from 5.18 in the year 2019-2020. However, in the post-pandemic year 2021-22 the share of TGDP in the total GDP increases to 1.77.

(Source: National council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Study on 'India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery').

(b) & (c): The details of various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures announced by the Government of India, which are expected to assist the tourism industry are given in the Annexure.

(d): As per the inputs received from the Government of Uttar

Pradesh, 12 major tourist circuits has been identified including Mahabharata Circuit by the state. Mahabharata Circuit consists of Hastinapur, Kampilya, Ahichatra, Barnava, Mathura, Kaushambi, Gonda, Lakshagra, Handia (Prayagraj). Keechakvadh Sthal Rath (Hamirpur) and Vidur Kuti (Bijnor) etc. Also, Government of Uttar Pradesh has implemented various tourism development projects under various schemes to facilitate tourists at Hastinapur. These project component aims to improve the public realm, as well as create additional infrastructure to enhance their future potential to grow into an important cultural hub.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†92 ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023 REGARDING SCHEMES TO BOOST CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN HASTINAPUR BY SHRI MALOOK NAGAR.

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

- 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 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.

- 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. **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 up to Rs.10.00 lakh each may be availed by Ministry of Tourism approved Tour operator/Travel Agents/Tourist Transport Operators and up to 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.**
- x. **The purpose of the LGSCATSS of the Ministry of Tourism was 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. This Scheme has been implemented through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).**
- xi. **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.**
- xii. **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.**
- xiii. **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.

- xiv. 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.**
- xv. 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.**
- xvi. Ministry of Home Affairs restored e-Tourist Visa for foreign nationals of 167 countries as on date.**
