

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2291
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021**

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON TAXI OPERATORS

2291. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has commissioned any study on the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the taxi operators working in tourism sector in India;**
- (b) whether the Government of India has taken any steps to mitigate the adverse impact of the pandemic on the taxi operators in India; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a): No formal study has been instituted to assess the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the taxi operators working in tourism sector in India. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has engaged National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in January, 2021 to conduct study on “India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery”. One of the objective of this study is to quantify the sector-wise and overall loss in income of the economy and of the household sector and also the loss in jobs, due to the impact of Coronavirus pandemic on the tourism sector.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Tourism recognizes the importance of protective steps and relief measures to ensure the survival and revival of the tourism industry. The steps taken to mitigate adverse impact of the pandemic on tourism industry including travel and tour operators in India are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2291 ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021 REGARDING IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON TAXI OPERATORS

The Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps to overcome the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic in the tourism sector:

- i. Detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene for hotels, restaurants, B&Bs/Home stays and Tourism Service Providers have been formulated and issued on 08.06.2020 to facilitate smooth resumption of business.**
- ii. Validity of approval or certifications of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval/re-approval and classification/re-classification have expired / were likely to expire, has been extended upto 30th April, 2021.**
- iii. The Ministry, has developed an initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry), 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.**
- iv. Operational Recommendations for safe resumption of business with easing of lockdown restrictions have been issued for various segments of the travel and hospitality industry and circulated amongst all stakeholders.**
- v. Recognition of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators by the Ministry of Tourism has been extended automatically by six months. Those who have submitted applications for recognition by the Ministry have been given provisional recognition for six months, pending completion of required procedures.**
- vi. In addition to the above steps taken by Ministry of Tourism, other agencies/Ministries of Government of India have declared stimulus packages like loan moratorium, waived off PF contribution, deferment of TCS up to October 2020, collateral free automatic loan under Atamnirbhar Bharat package etc. to revive the economy and industry including units of the hospitality industry.**
