

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.984
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021**

JOB LOSS IN KERALA TOURISM SECTOR

984. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Job Loss In Kerala Tourism sector that contributes approximately 10 per cent of the State GDP is anticipating a cumulative loss of Rs 25,000 crores;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation from the Government of Kerala in this regard and also seeking fiscal support for the tourism sector;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and measures initiated by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government is further aware of the losses suffered by backwater tourism and houseboats sector as well as home stay sector; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the details of aid provided to the sector for its revival by the Government?**

ANSWER

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

(a): No formal study has been instituted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to assess job losses in Kerala Tourism sector. However, as per the information received from Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala loss of Rs.30,711/- crores has been estimated in tourism sector in Kerala due to Covid -19.

(b) & (c): Ministry has not received any proposal from Government of Kerala with regard to the issue and seeking fiscal support for the tourism sector.

(d): Government is aware of the fact that the closure of the travel and tourism industry has had a cascading effect on the livelihood of people dependent on tourism including backwater tourism and houseboats sector as well as home stay sector in Kerala.

(e): Details of Initiatives taken by Kerala State Government are given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.984 ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021 REGARDING JOB LOSS IN KERALA TOURISM SECTOR.

Tourism sector is one of the major contributors to the State's exchequer. Kerala's Tourism sector was grounded to a halt by the COVID 19 pandemic with 10 months of zero tourist arrivals and zero occupancy in hotels and resorts. It has severely affected the livelihood of thousands. Taking this into consideration, Department of Tourism government of Kerala has launched the "Chief Minister's Loan Assistance " schemes and Financial assistance schemes to support the tourism industry in Kerala to overcome the losses due to COVID-19 global pandemic. Details of the schemes is as follows:-

(i) Tourism working Capital Support Scheme

This loan scheme is envisaged to make available a working capital facility for the Entrepreneurs in the tourism sector who have been affected by the detrimental effect of COVID-19 pandemic. In this scheme, the interested Tourism Industry stakeholders can apply for working capital loan up to Rs25 lakhs from the banks at a rate of interest as per the approved policy of the respective banks. The repayment of the loan shall be made by the loanee in 42 months including an initial repayment holiday of 6 months. 50 percentage of the interest applied by the bank for the first year of the loan subject the maximum of 4.50 percentage.

(ii) Tourism Employment support scheme

In this scheme, Kerala Bank will provide short term loans to the employees as requested to by the establishments at an interest rate of 9 percentage per annum. Department of Tourism will absorb 6 percentage of the interest for the total period of 18 months and the remaining 3 percentage will have to be borne by the borrower concerned. The employer shall submit the list of employees (permanent/contract/daily wages) working in their establishment and can avail a loan upto Rs 30,000 per employee. The repayment shall be done by the loanee in 18 months including 4 months moratorium.

(iii) Tourism Houseboat support scheme

As per the scheme, Department of Tourism will provide a non-refundable financial assistance to houseboat owners to get the vessels repaired and maintained as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Category	Rate of financial assistance
1	Houseboats with 1 to 2 bedrooms	Upto a maximum of Rs 80000
2	Houseboats with 3-4 bedrooms	Upto a maximum of Rs 100000
3	Houseboat with 5 and above bedrooms	Upto a maximum of Rs 120000

(iv) Tourism Guide Support Scheme

As per the “Tourism Guide support Scheme ” one time financial assistance of Rs.10, 000/- will be paid to licensed tourist guides working in Kerala. Department of Tourism has already released financial assistance to 268 guides.
