

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.97
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE TOURISM AFTER PANDEMIC

97. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

- (a) the details of steps taken to promote responsible tourism in the country;**
- (b) whether the tourism sector has been badly affected due to the pandemic;**
- (c) if so, the details of action to rejuvenate the tourism sector in the country;**
- (d) whether there is a steep fall in the number of tourists; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and relaxations announced so far to attract the tourists?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI. G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tourism has recognized the immense potential of responsible/sustainable tourism in becoming a source of sustainable livelihoods and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this connection, the Ministry has taken following steps:

- (i). Evolved Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for major segments of the tourism industry. The Criteria has been evolved after consultations with the various stakeholders.**
- (ii) Formulated a draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism.**
- (iii) Formulated guidelines for classification of hotels under various categories, which require hotels to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Rain Water Harvesting System, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for**

refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc.

(iv) Prescribed that the architecture of the hotel buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should be sustainable and energy efficient and as far as possible be in conformity with the local ethos and make use of local designs and material.

(v) Tour operators approved by Ministry of Tourism have to sign a pledge for commitment towards Safe & Honourable and Sustainable Tourism to fully implement Sustainable Tourism practices, consistent with the best environment and heritage protection standards.

(b) & (c): Tourism sector has been severely hit by the pandemic and the action taken by the Government to rejuvenate the sector is placed at Annexure:

(d) & (e): The number of foreign tourist arrivals during 2019 were 10.93 million which decreased to 2.74 million in 2020. The number of Domestic Tourists visits in India during 2019 were 2321982663 which decreased to 610216157.

Keeping in view the improvement in COVID situation in country and subject to Covid related Guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as applicable to international travelers, it was decided that all foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist visa through Chartered flights (for group tourism only) from 15th October 2021; and all individual foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes are being allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist visa/Tourist Visa w.e.f. 15th November 2021. Further Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa of foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism will have to be utilized within 120 days from the date of issue of such visa/Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). Fresh Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa will remain valid for single entry for up to 30 days from the date of entry into India. Relaxation of visa and travel restrictions for foreign tourists is not country-specific.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (B) & (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 97 ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021 REGARDING FISCAL AND RELIEF MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE INDIAN HOTEL INDUSTRY

- i. **The Government announced Atmanirbhar Bharat Package vide which Rs.3.00 lakh crore collateral free automatic loan has been made available for MSMEs. The loan will have 4- year tenure and 12-month moratorium.**
- ii. **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.**
- iii. **Under Atmanirbhar Bharat package, PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months.**
- iv. **Deferment of TCS up to October 2020.**
- v. **Return filing deferred for three months with no penal interest for companies up to Rs.5 Crore, rest @ 9% penal interest.**
- vi. **The Central government also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and GST Act for varying period in the wake of COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.**
- vii. **The RBI extended moratorium on term loans till 31st December 2020.**
- viii. **The Government announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 3.0 on 31.3.2021 to support eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their business. The scope of the scheme was enlarged to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism and Leisure & Sporting sectors. The validity of ECLGS (ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0) was extended up to 30.06.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh crore are issued. Last date of disbursement under the scheme was extended to 30.09.2021. The details of guarantees issued under the scheme are given below:**

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) Tourism and Hospitality Scheme wise data as on 30.09.2021			
Industry Nature	Support Under	No. of Guarantees Issued	Amount of Guarantees issued on account of loans sanctioned under the scheme (in Rs. crore)
Travel and Tourism	ECLGS 3.0	2,732	1,371.62
Hospitality	ECLGS 3.0	3,160	5,430.96
Hotels, Restaurants, Tourism	ECLGS 2.0	218	3,403.90
Tourism, Hotels & Restaurants	ECLGS 1.0	96,219	3559.43
Total		1,02,329	13,765.91

- ix. **Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to release Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) scrips on 16.06.2021. Earlier, several Industry stakeholders had flagged appeals to the Government to release SEIS Scrips for 2019-20 and DGFT had put a detailed proposal for the allocation for SEIS for exports made during 2019-20. Taking all circumstances into account, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to the proposal of Department of Commerce for continuation of SEIS for 2019-20 with a financial allocation of Rs.2061 crore subject to the condition that the amount will be provided through Expenditure Budget following the procedure of providing a New Minor Head.**
- x. **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'.**
- xi. **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.

- xii. **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.**
- xiii. **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.**
- xiv. **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.**
- xv. **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 has been extended up to 31st March 2022.**
- xvi. **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.**
- xvii. **Financial support under the "Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Tourism Service Sector (LGSCATSS)". The scheme will cover Regional Level Tourist Guides recognised by the Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides recognised by the State Governments/ UT Administrations and Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS) recognized by the Ministry of Tourism. TTS's will be eligible to get a loan upto Rs. 10.00 lakh each while tourist guides can avail loan up to Rs 1.00 lakh each. There will be no processing charges, waiver of foreclosure / prepayment charges and no requirement of**

additional collateral. Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Tourism through NCGTC.

xviii. **Free Tourist Visa to 5 Lakh:** As per the announcement, once Visa issuance is restarted, the first 5.00 lakh Tourists Visas will be issued free of charge. The benefit of free of charge visa will be available only once per tourist during the issuance of the first 5 lakh tourist visas (free of charge visas). The scheme will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till 5,00,000 visas are issued, whichever is earlier.

xix. **Vide notification dated 26th April 2021,** "Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre" has been included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of "Social and Commercial Infrastructure", with a footnote defining Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre.

xx. **On 12th November 2020,** the Government announced the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana- to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana has been extended till 31st March 2022.

xxi. **Further,** the Ministry of Tourism has issued modified guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Providers dated 08.12.2020 which are effective from January 2021. As per the modified guidelines, Category of Greenshoot / Start-up- Agencies is being introduced for the first time. This is in keeping with the policy of the Govt. of India for encouraging Start-Ups and will also further the cause of 'Atmanirbhar India'.

xxii. **Recognising the fact that revival in the tourism sector will be largely spearheaded by Domestic tourism,** the Ministry initiated arranging a series of webinars under the overall theme of Dekho Apna Desh. The objective is to generate awareness and at the same time sustain interest amongst stakeholders, students and the general public.

xxiii. **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.
