

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1164  
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022**

**MEDICAL TOURISM**

**1164. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:**

**SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:**

**DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:**

**MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:**

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the medical tourism sector in India is expected to grow to USD 13 billion by 2022 and if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote Medical Value Travel in India;**
- (b) the steps taken for training and capacity building of the healthcare workforce to cater to international patients and the details of other initiatives to promote medical tourism in the country;**
- (c) whether there exist any policies for the regulation of the private medical sector with respect to medical tourism and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of the financial assistance granted to the Wellness Tourist Service Providers and the Medical Tourist Service Providers under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme during the last four years; and**
- (e) whether any COVID-19 centric measures have been taken for the promotion of medical and wellness tourism and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (d): Recognising medical value travel and wellness tourism as important sectors having the potential of accelerating the country's**

**development, Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to promote India as a Medical and Wellness tourism destination, which are as follows:-**

**(i) In order to create a robust framework and synergy amongst the Central Government Ministries, State Governments and Private Sector for promoting India as a Medical and Wellness Tourism destination, Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The strategy document focuses on the following key pillars:**

- (a) Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination**
- (b) Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism**
- (c) Enable digitalization by setting up Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal**
- (d) Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel**
- (e) Promoting Wellness Tourism**
- (f) Governance and Institutional Framework**

**(ii) In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Ministry of Tourism has constituted a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board with the Hon'ble Minister (Tourism) as its Chairman.**

**(iii) As part of its on-going activities, Ministry of Tourism, releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country. Digital promotions are also regularly undertaken through the Social Media accounts of the Ministry on different themes including the theme of Medical Tourism.**

**(iv) 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign travellers coming to India for medical treatment. To promote Medical Tourism in the country, Government of India is extending e-medical visa facility to the nationals of 156 countries.**

**(v) Ministry of Tourism provides financial Assistance under Market Development Assistance Scheme to Medical Tourism Service Providers accredited by NABH for participation in Medical/ Tourism Fairs, Medical Conferences, Wellness Conferences, Wellness Fairs and allied Road Shows. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs.17,70,499 have been released to the Wellness Tourist Service Providers and the Medical Tourist Service Providers under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme during the last four financial years.**

**(e): In order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Government has announced various measures for revival of tourism sector in the country, which include medical and wellness tourism. The details are given at Annexure.**

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## **ANNEXURE**

### **STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1164 ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022 REGARDING MEDICAL TOURISM.**

**The following are the various fiscal 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 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 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 TCS up to October 2020.**
- 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 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. Provision of additional corpus of Rs.50,000 crores has also been made for hospitality sector. The validity of ECLGS (ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0) has been extended till 31.03.2023 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh crores are issued.**
- viii. 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.

- ix. On 28<sup>th</sup> 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'.
- x. 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 upto Rs.10.00 lakh each may be availed by MoT approved Tour operator/Travel Agents/Tourist Transport Operators and upto Rs.1.00 lakh each may be availed by RLGs/IITGs approved by MoT and Tourist Guides approved by State Government/ UT Administration. The scheme is already operational through 18 Scheduled Commercial Banks. Validity of the scheme has been extended by one more year i.e. till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 or till the guarantee of Rs.250.00 crore are issued under the scheme.
- 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. 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**
- 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. 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.**
- xv. 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.**
- xvi. 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.**
- xvii. Ministry of Home Affairs restored e-Tourist Visa for foreign nationals of 156 countries w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. 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. 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

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