

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 41
ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022**

BHARAT GAURAV PROJECT

41. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to redevelop post-covid tourism sector of the country;**
- (b) the proposal of the Government to develop tourism with the help of unemployed persons of the country under Bharat Gaurav project therefor; and**
- (c) the details of projects which are running under the private capacity and employment has generated through Bharat Gaurav Project and post-covid rehabilitation direct support to hotels and tourism industries in this regard?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The details of the various fiscal relief measures announced by the Government, which are expected to benefit in revival of the Indian tourism industry, is enclosed at ANNEXURE.

(b)&(c): Ministry of Railways has informed that Indian Railways have introduced theme-based Tourist Circuit trains under the Bharat Gaurav Trains (BGT) Policy which was formulated with the purpose to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world through professionals of the tourism sector and other potential service providers.

Though, the policy does not entail any direct employment generation on the part of railway, it is expected that this will help in creation of huge number of direct and indirect employment of people engaged in the field of tourism such as transport, recreation, hotels, food, fuel and other service sectors(handicrafts, textiles, etc) .

The details of the Bharat Gaurav Train policy can be referred on <https://bharatgauravtrains.indianrailways.gov.in>.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.41 ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022 REGARDING BHARAT GAURAV PROJECT

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 has been 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 has been 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 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.**
- v. 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.**
- vi. 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'.**

- vii. 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 31st March, 2023 or till the guarantee of Rs. 250.00 crores are issued under the scheme.**
- viii. 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.**
- ix. 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 31st March 2022.**
- x. 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.**
- xi. 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.**

- xii. 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.**
- xiii. Ministry of Home Affairs restored e-Tourist Visa for foreign nationals of 156 countries w.e.f. 15th 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. 27th March, 2022.**
