

**Statement-II**

*The steps that have been taken by Ministry of Tourism to overcome the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic in the tourism sector*

- (i) Detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene has been prepared in order to create awareness, training and assessment of compliance of the guidelines. The program is aimed at building the capacity of the Hospitality industry particularly small and medium units to restart and grow their business.
- (ii) A robust information system/comprehensive data base of various accommodation units throughout the country has been created for coordinating and ensuring registration of all unclassified accommodation units.
- (iii) Operational recommendations 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.
- (iv) 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 September, 2020.
- (v) The Ministry, in collaboration with QCI, has developed an initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness and 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.

**Impact of COVID-19 on the tourism and hospitality sector in India**

1114. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector in India, especially relating to revenue, footfalls, closure of tourist companies and hospitality sector; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to help the hospitality sector aligned with the Tourism sector to recover from the adverse impact of COVID-19?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) No formal study has been instituted for assessment of the impact

on the Tourism sector relating to revenue, footfalls, closure of tourist companies and hospitality sector. However, several rounds of discussions and brainstorming sessions with industry stakeholders indicate massive loss of revenue, foreign exchange and jobs. In view of the highly unorganized nature of the sector, the impact in numerical terms can only be ascertained in due course.

(b) The stimulus packages announced by the various agencies and ministries of Government of India are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Further steps which have been taken to overcome the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic in the tourism sector are given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Packages announced by the various agencies and Ministries of  
Government of India*

- RBI has extended moratorium on term loans till 31st August 2020.
- The government has further announced Atmanirbhar Bharat Package *vide* which ₹ 3 lakh crore collateral free automatic loan has been made available for MSMEs. The loan will have 4-year tenure and will have 12-month moratorium.
- The Government waived off PF contribution for three months for organizations with less than 100 pax and 90% employees having salary below ₹ 15000. 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 the next three months *i.e.* up to September 2020.
- Deferment of TCS upto October 2020.
- Return filing deferred for three months with no penal interest for companies upto ₹ 5 Crore, rest @ 9% penal interest.
- The Central government has also given relief from various regulatory compliance 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.

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#### **Development of river tourism in Odisha**

1115. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by Government to develop river tourism in the country; and
- (b) the specific plan for Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Development and promotion of tourism, including river tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for projects identified by them under their jurisdiction, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and submission of certificate of utilisation of funds released earlier.

For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD), the 'Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' schemes. These schemes includes, *inter alia*, development of tourist spots on river banks in the identified circuits/ pilgrimage destinations.