

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1102
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM SECTOR

1102. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aiming to develop the tourism sector, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, to new heights and accelerating the transition to achieve sustainable development of the sector;
- (b) whether there is a need to strengthen the coordination mechanism of various Ministries and stakeholders to resolve issues for the promotion of tourism;
- (c) if so, the number and status of various schemes launched by Government for the development of tourism sector in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of the efforts initiated by Government and the time frame to achieve the target?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Government of India has announced various relief measures for redeveloping post-COVID tourism sector of the country. The details are given at Annexure.

Apart from above, Ministry of Tourism has formulated a Draft National Tourism Policy. The Key Strategic Objectives of the Policy are:

- (i) To enhance the contribution of tourism in Indian economy by increasing the visitation, stay and spend and making India a year-round tourist destination.
- (ii) To create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in tourism sector and ensure supply of skilled work force.
- (iii) To enhance the competitiveness of tourism sector and attract private sector investment.
- (iv) To preserve and enhance the cultural and natural resources of the country.
- (v) To ensure sustainable, responsible and inclusive development of tourism in the country.

(b): The Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Tourism Sector (IMCCTS) facilitates resolution of Inter-Ministerial issues involved in the development of tourism in the country.

(c): The major schemes of the Ministry of Tourism for development and promotion of tourism in the country are:

- (i) Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme Based Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD).
- (iii) Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development.
- (iv) Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality.

- (v) Restructured Scheme of Overseas Promotion & Publicity including Market Development Assistance.
- (vi) Assistance to IHMs/FCIs/IITTM/ICI/ NCHMCT etc.
- (vii) Capacity Building for Service Providers.
- (viii) Champion Services Sector Scheme.
- (ix) Safe Tourist Destinations for Women.

Ministry of Tourism has now revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.

(d): The projects are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. This is a continuous process and the projects are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1102 ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022 REGARDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM SECTOR:

The following are the various 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 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (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 Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (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 Tax Collected at Source (TCS) up to October 2020.
- vi. The Central government also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and Goods and Service Tax (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. The details of guarantees issued under the scheme are given below:

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism Data As on 30.06.2022			
Industry Nature	ECLGS Scheme	No of Guarantees Issued	Loan Amount Guaranteed (Rs. In Cr)
Hotel, Restaurants, Tourism	ECLGS 1.0	96734	3668.59
	ECLGS 1.0 EXTENSION	1041	202.13
Total		97775	3870.72
Hotel, Restaurants, Tourism	ECLGS 2.0	219	3421.46
	ECLGS 2.0 EXTENSION	4	34.47
Total		223	3455.93
Travels and Tourism	ECLGS 3.0	2926	1880.57
	ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION	567	342.67
Total		3493	2223.24
Hospitality	ECLGS 3.0	3478	6154.45
	ECLGS 3.0 EXTENSION	1120	1781
Total		4598	7935.45
Grand Total		106089	17485.34

- viii. 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'.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. 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.
- xvi. 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.
