

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2713
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2020

ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE FOR TRAINING OF TOURIST GUIDES

2713. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether Government is issuing Regional Level Tourist Guide licences under the delegated power of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act;
- (b) if so, the number of tourist guide licences issued during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether there is severe shortage of approved tourist guides in the country; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has rolled out online certification course to create a pool of skilled persons at local level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has been issuing Regional Level Tourist Guide (RLG) licences under the delegated powers of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and Rules 1959, as amended from time to time. Subsequently, this matter has further been reconsidered and reviewed and the provision of issuing Regional Level Tourist Guide (RLG) licences has been withdrawn with effect from 02.03.2020. However, the existing valid Regional Level Guide (RLG) licences issued by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India will be valid till 31st March, 2021.

(b): The number of tourist guide licences issued during each of the last three years and the current year is as follows:

- i. 2016-17 - 202
- ii. 2017-18 - NIL
- iii. 2018-19 - NIL
- iv. 2019-20 - NIL

(c) & (d): With a view to addressing the shortage of tourist guides in the country, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitators (IITF) Certification Programme, a Pan-India online learning program that is open to all, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria, and can be undertaken by anyone from anywhere in the country. The Programme aims at creating a pool of well-trained/skilled professionals for facilitating the visit of tourists at various destinations even in remote areas across the country.
