GUIDELINES FOR ASSISTANCE BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM TO PROMOTE CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS & ADVENTURE TOURISM IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYAS AS A NICHE TOURISM PRODUCT

In order to position the Indian Himalayas as a round the year destination, an exclusive campaign titled ‘777 Days of Incredible Indian Himalayas’ has been launched by the Ministry of Tourism in association with Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) starting from 27th September 2013. This campaign will go a long way in fulfilling the long standing desire of the Adventure Tourism fraternity to promote the Incredible Indian Himalayas in a holistic manner, as a destination for both, soft and hard adventure activities.

In the Indian Himalayas, one of the major activities which is most popular and revenue generating is climbing the mountains. The climbing expeditions take place in groups of two or more. The Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF), the apex national body for organising, supporting and providing a base for expeditions for mountaineering, skiing, rock climbing, trekking at high altitudes in India and many State Governments charge peak fee or peak royalty from the foreign members of such expeditions besides levying environmental fee or cess and liaison officer equipment hire charges.

In order to give an impetus to the adventure tourism during the “777 days of Incredible Indian Himalayas” Campaign, it has been decided to provide concessions on the peak fee or peak royalty by 50 % being charged by IMF from the foreign climbing groups as an incentive. No concession, however, will be paid on environmental fee or cess, liaison officer equipment hire charges or the fees charged by either IMF or the State Governments.

Eligibility for obtaining the concession:

All foreign members of a climbing expedition in a group of two or more, will be eligible for the benefit of the concession, which will be directly paid by the Ministry of Tourism to IMF.
Modalities for payment of concession amount

The concession amount will be paid to IMF on raising a bill against the Ministry of Tourism every quarter, giving the details of foreign members of climbing expeditions that have been registered and allowed by IMF, by depositing the other 50% of the peak fee / peak royalty. The concession amount will keep on changing in accordance with the fee being charged by IMF from such climbers from time to time. IMF will be paid 5% of the concession amount as handling charges (over and above the 50% concession amount).

All bills will be raised by IMF in the name of Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and sent to Assistant Director General, Niche Tourism Division, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Duration of scheme

The duration of the scheme will be till the end of “777 days of Incredible Indian Himalayas” Campaign that has been launched on 27th September, 2013.

Debit of Expenditure

The expenditure on account of this activity will be met from DPPH Scheme, being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism.

This issues with the approval of the Integrated Finance Division vide U.O. No. 1626 dated 26th December 2013.

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