

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.160
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2021

TOURISM IN KASHMIR

160. Shri Elamaram Kareem:

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

- (a) the number of tourists who visited the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh since August, 2019;
- (b) how many were pilgrimage tourists;
- (c) the details of job losses in in these Union Territories in the tourism and handicraft sector, since August 5, 2019;
- (d) the details of job losses of artisans and weavers, tour operators, House boatowners, tourist transport, shikaras, Hotel and restaurant industry, tour guides and other allied sectors- since August 5, 2019 till date; and
- (e) whether Government has provided any financial aid to the people dependent on tourism sector to compensate their loss of job, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a)& (b): The number of tourists who visited Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions as per Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir UT Administration since August, 2019 are:

Kashmir	Jammu	Ladakh
84,326	87,94,837	1,00,931

The total number of pilgrimage/tourists who visited Jammu since August 2019 is 76,80,775.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Tourism has not conducted any formal study to assess the job losses of artisans and weavers, tour operators, House boat owners, tourist transport, shikaras, Hotel and restaurant industry, tour guides and other allied sectors.

With respect to job losses and financial aid to people dependent on tourism sector Jammu & Kashmir UT Administration has informed the following:

- Since, August, 5, 2019, the number of tourist arrivals in Jammu & Kashmir declined. The impact was felt more severely in Kashmir valley than in the Jammu Division. However, the Tourist footfall in J&K is gradually increasing since last few months.
- In respect of handicraft sector, no noticeable job losses in J&K have happened since August 05,2019. The artisans engaged in different Handicrafts activities are continuing their job and the Government is providing support through different schemes and steps

are being taken to provide every possible assistance to artisans of J&K through various schemes of Central Government.

(e): As per the information received from J&K UT administration, the Government released a stimulus package of Rs.5.6742 Crore as relief in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic for its disbursement among the tourism stakeholders.

- The amount of relief which has been disbursed among the stake holders is to the extent of Rs.1000 per beneficiary per month for a period of three (03) months as per details given below:

Sl.No	Name of stake Holder	No of Beneficiaries/ Stake Holders
1	ShikaraWala	4880
2	Pony Walla	10571
3	Tourist Guides	1313
4	Sledge/Dandi Walla	2150

- The benefit has further been extended for a period of six (06) months @ Rs.1000/- per month and an amount of Rs.618.70 Lakh has recently been approved by the Government for further release to beneficiaries.

In addition to the efforts of the UT Administrations, Ministry of Tourism is giving financial assistance to service providers in the UT of J&K and Ladakh approved by the Ministry of Tourism and UT Tourism Department for undertaking promotional activities including participation in international and domestic travel marts/fairs/exhibitions/road shows and undertaking online promotion/sales tours overseas to give boost to the tourism sector in the region.
