

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2400
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021

BOOSTING OF TOURISM SECTOR POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2400. Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to boost tourism post COVID-19;
- (b) whether major irrigation projects are considered as tourist destinations; and
- (c) if so, the initiatives taken to develop such areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): The details of the steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism, to boost tourism post Covid-19 pandemic is at Annexure.

(b) & (c): Development and Promotion of Tourist destinations is primarily the responsibility of State Governments / UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to States/ UTs for development of tourist destinations based on detailed project reports submitted by them. States may include major irrigation projects for tourism promotion keeping in view the potential of the project and scheme guidelines.

The following projects have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- i. Development of Gandhisagar Dam-Mandleshwar Dam – Omkareshwar Dam – Indira Sagar Dam - Tawa Dam – Bargi Dam- Bheda Ghat – Bansagar Dam and Ken River under the Eco Circuit theme.
- ii. Development of Pathariya Fort at Kutani Dam under the Heritage Circuit theme.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2400 ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021 BOOSTING OF TOURISM SECTOR POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- i. Detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene 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.
- ii. 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 April, 2021.
- iii. The Ministry has developed an initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & 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.
- iv. Operational Recommendations for safe resumption of business with easing of lockdown restrictions have been issued for various segments of the travel and hospitality industry and circulated amongst all stakeholders.
- v. Recognition of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators by the Ministry of Tourism has been extended automatically by six months. Those who have submitted applications for recognition by the Ministry have been given provisional recognition for six months, pending completion of required procedures.
- vi. In addition to the above steps taken by Ministry of Tourism, other agencies/Ministries of Government of India have declared stimulus packages like loan moratorium, waived off PF contribution, deferment of TCS up to October 2020, collateral free automatic loan under Atmanirbhar Bharat package etc. to revive the economy and industry including units of the hospitality industry.
- vii. The Ministry has modified the guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Programme under which financial assistance is provided to tourism service providers, State Governments and UT Administrations to promote tourism in the overseas markets.
- viii. The Government has revised incentives for MICE events under Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS), in order to boost MICE tourism in the country.

The Ministry has undertaken the following activities / initiatives to promote Domestic Tourism:

- i. Dekho Apna Desh webinars.
- ii. Aerial Photography of key cities and cultural assets (Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Udupi, Aurangabad, Iconic Tourist sites) across the country during lockdown.
- iii. Regular consultations with industry stakeholders on issues related to opening up of Tourism sector.
- iv. Handling of tourists, protocols of safety and security, service standards etc.
- v. Domestic Tourism Promotion Campaign through Webinars, social media and other digital platforms.
- vi. Dekho Apna Desh Campaign has been the mainstay of Domestic Promotion. The main focus is to rebuild the trust of the domestic & international travelers in terms of India being the safe destination to travel in post Covid scenario.
