

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1109
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021**

MOU WITH ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES

1109. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently signed an MoU with online travel companies like Clear Trip and Ease My Trip etc.**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereon for signing such an MoU;**
- (c) the basis on which these companies have been selected and the details of the selection process of these companies;**
- (d) whether any revenue sharing mechanism agreement has been entered into with these companies and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard to State Tourism Departments on the modalities of such a partnership and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has recently signed MoUs with three Online Travel Companies namely EaseMyTrip.com, Cleartrip Pvt Ltd and Yatra Online Pvt Ltd to get a clear picture on the geographical spread of the Hospitality Sector, its size, structure and existing capacity so as to offer relevant services to the Hospitality Industry [like assistance in COVID-19 preparedness through SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry), Star Classification etc.], under National Integrated Database of the Hospitality Industry (NIDHI). As a step towards realising this vision, the Ministry has solicited assistance from the Online Travel Aggregation Companies by way of entering into an MoU with the Ministry of Tourism.

(c): A circular has been uploaded on the Ministry of Tourism website inviting all Online Travel Aggregation Companies to express their intent to participate in this exercise. A copy of the same is given at Annexure. It is an ongoing process to engage with Industry stakeholders.

(d): No, Sir. No revenue sharing mechanism in the agreement has been entered into with these companies.

(e): The guidelines regarding NIDHI & SAATHI have been issued to the State Tourism Departments & the Ministry is continuously engaging with State Tourism Departments for promoting them. The modalities related to the objectives of the MoU are in development stage.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1109 ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021 REGARDING MOU WITH ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES.

CIRCULAR

Ministry of Tourism is in the process to build a technology driven system, aligned with “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, to get a clear picture on the geographical spread of the Hospitality Sector, its size, structure and existing capacity so as to offer relevant services to the Hospitality Industry (like SAATHI, Star Classification etc.), under NIDHI (National Integrated Database of the Hospitality Industry). This initiative is poised to be a game changer for the industry by not only serving as a platform for the Hospitality organizations to ideate, share best practices and connecting with the Government for ease of doing business but also by acting as an interface between the Government, the hospitality industry and the tourist. This will not only assist in the generation of information for policy decisions, HR requirements, disseminating disaster/health and safety protocol, but will also help in creation of jobs.

As a step towards realising this vision, the Ministry solicits assistance from the Online Travel Aggregation Companies by way of entering into an MoU with the Ministry of Tourism. This MoU is a promise to work together to strengthen the hospitality industry ecosystem, will be open to all OTAs, will be non-exclusive, will be non-financial and shall not legally obligate any party.

Please drop a mail to hraccdivision@gmail.com with your contact details to express your intent to participate in this exercise. We shall connect with you with details.
