

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2558
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2021

ACCREDITATION OF LOCAL TOURIST GUIDES

2558. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

- (a) the framework/procedure for the accreditation of local tourist guides at the historical monuments notified by the Ministry;
- (b) whether there is any mechanism to monitor/review their performance;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any initiatives to induct local tourist guides with the help of Departments of History of respective universities in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tourism does not issue any guiding license at the local level. Ministry of Tourism has only issued indicative guidelines for the State Govt./ UT Administration to issue guide license at the local level.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Tourism has already launched certificate programme of Incredible India Tourist Facilitator/ Incredible India Tourist Guide (IITF/IITG), which is a digital initiative that aims at creating an Online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators across the country. Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), which is an autonomous institute of the Ministry, is the implementing agency for this programme.

The Programme was operationalized on 01.01.2020. The system will provide basic, advanced (IITF – Heritage and Adventure), spoken language and refresher courses for candidates. Inputs are being received by IITTM from the leading Universities for developing the course content. The candidates can pursue these online courses from anywhere and at anytime and at their own pace. The online courses can be accessed from different digital devices. On successful completion of the course, he/she will be a professionally certified tourist facilitator who will support tourists by disseminating information, eliciting interest in them about the country and providing experiential tourism.

Further, the Ministry of Tourism is conducting (offline) 6-week language courses i.e. Dutch, German, French, Japanese, Chinese etc. to train Linguistic Tourist Facilitators (LTF) for tourism service providers under its Suo-Motu-initiatives under the scheme of ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP). The basic objective of this Linguistic Tourist Facilitators is to create trained manpower in different foreign languages to facilitate the tourist visiting India from different countries and to upgrade the skill of the existing service providers to deal effectively with foreign tourists in their own languages.
