

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1276  
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021**

**SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY**

**1276. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

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

- (a) whether the tourists inflow in the country has declined in the wake of pandemic;**
- (b) if so, the percentage decrease of tourist inflow compared to corresponding period and previous years;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide special packages for the tourism industry of the country;**
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and**
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to boost arrival of tourists in the country?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) & (b): As per information received from Bureau of Immigration, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2020 were 27,44,766 as compared to 1,09,30,355 in 2019 registering a negative growth of 74.9%. Further, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during the period January-September 2021 were 6,75,012 (Provisional) as compared to 25,41,751 in January-September 2020 registering a negative growth of 73.4%.**

**(c) & (d): Government of India has announced various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures which are expected to revive tourism industry in the country. Those measures are at Annexure-I.**

**(e): The details of remedial steps taken by the Government to boost arrival of tourists in the country are at Annexure-II.**

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## **ANNEXURE-I**

### **STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1276 ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021 REGARDING SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY**

**The following are the various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures announced by Government of India which are expected to revive tourism industry in the country:**

- i. The Government announced Atmanirbhar Bharat Package vide which Rs.3.00 lakh crore collateral free automatic loan has been made available for MSMEs. The loan will have 4- year tenure and 12-month moratorium.**
- ii. The Government waived off PF contribution for three months for organisations with less than 100 pax and 90% of their employees earn below Rs.15000.**
- iii. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat package, PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months**
- iv. Deferment of TCS up to October 2020.**
- v. Return filing deferred for three months with no penal interest for companies up to Rs.5.00 Crore, rest @ 9% penal interest.**
- vi. The Central government also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and GST Act for varying period in the wake of COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.**
- vii. The RBI extended moratorium on term loans till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**
- viii. The Government announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 3.0 on 31.3.2021 to support eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their business. The scope of the scheme was enlarged to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism and Leisure & Sporting sectors. The validity of ECLGS (ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0) was extended up to 30.06.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh crore are issued. Last date of disbursement under the scheme**

was extended to 30.09.2021. The details of guarantees issued under the scheme are given below:

<b>Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) Tourism and Hospitality Scheme wise data as on 30.09.2021</b>			
<b>Industry Nature</b>	<b>Support Under</b>	<b>No. of Guarantees Issued</b>	<b>Amount of Guarantees issued on account of loans sanctioned under the scheme (in Rs. crore)</b>
<b>Travel and Tourism</b>	<b>ECLGS 3.0</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>1,371.62</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>ECLGS 3.0</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>5,430.96</b>
<b>Hotels, Restaurants, Tourism</b>	<b>ECLGS 2.0</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>3,403.90</b>
<b>Tourism, Hotels &amp; Restaurants</b>	<b>ECLGS 1.0</b>	<b>96,219</b>	<b>3559.43</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,02,329</b>	<b>13,765.91</b>

- xi. Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to release Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) scrips on 16.06.2021. Earlier, several Industry stakeholders had flagged appeals to the Government to release SEIS Scrips for 2019-20 and DGFT had put a detailed proposal for the allocation for SEIS for exports made during 2019-20. Taking all circumstances into account, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to the proposal of Department of Commerce for continuation of SEIS for 2019-20 with a financial allocation of Rs.2061 crore subject to the condition that the amount will be provided through Expenditure Budget following the procedure of providing a New Minor Head.**
- x. On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the Government announced a stimulus package to boost diverse sectors of economy affected by COVID-19 pandemic and provide impetus for growth and employment measures. The package comprises a total of 17 measures in three broad categories, which included 'Economic relief from Pandemic, with special focus on health and reviving**

**travel and tourism sectors' and 'Impetus for Growth and employment'.**

- xi. 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.**
- xii. With a view to prepare for a post-COVID 19 revival, the Ministry has formulated and issued detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene for hotels, restaurants, B&Bs/Homestays and Tourism Service Providers on 08.06.2020 to facilitate smooth resumption of business.**
- xiii. An initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry) has been developed 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.**
- xiv. With an aim to incentivize stakeholders in the Tourism industry, the Guidelines for the scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) for providing financial support to stakeholders for the promotion of Domestic Tourism have been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders. Additional promotional activities have been incorporated including online promotions and the extent of financial assistance permissible has been enhanced.**
- xv. Validity of approval or certification of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval/re-approval and classification/re-classification have expired/were likely to expire has been extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**
- xvi. The Guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance Programme under the Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme has been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders in the tourism industry.**
- xvii. An announcement by the Ministry of Finance on 28.06.2021 to provide relief to the tourism sector, Ministry of Tourism has implemented the "Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Tourism Service Sector (LGSCATSS)". Under this loan guarantee scheme, loan upto Rs. 10.00 lakh will be extended to each Tour Operators/ Travel Agents/ Tourist Transport Operators approved/ recognized by the Ministry of Tourism,**

**upto Rs. 1.00 lakh will be extended to each Regional Tourist Guide/ Incredible India Tourist Guide approved/recognized by the Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides approved/ recognized by the State Govt./ UT Administration.**

**The purpose of the LGSCATSS of the Ministry of Tourism is to provide guarantee coverage for the loans provided by the Scheduled Commercial Banks to the above mentioned beneficiaries, to discharge their liabilities and restart their business affected due to Covid-19 pandemic.**

**Validity of the said scheme is till 31.03.2022 or till the guarantee of Rs. 250.00 crores are issued under the scheme, whichever is earlier and would be applicable to all eligible loans sanctioned under the scheme on or after 04.10.2021 [issuance of LGSCATSS guidelines by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)] till 31.03.2022. No guarantee fee will be charged from the Money Lending Institutions (MLIs) by NCGTC for the credit facilities provided under the Scheme.**

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## **ANNEXURE-II**

### **STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1276 ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021 REGARDING SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY**

**The following are the remedial steps taken by Government of India to boost arrival of tourists in the country:**

- (i) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has relaxed the restriction for all foreign nationals intended to visit India for Tourism purposes subject to the Covid related guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).The e-Tourist Visa / Tourist Visa is fully restored for all individual foreign nationals intended to visit India for tourism purposes w.e.f. 15th November ,2021. Initially, the e- Tourist / Tourist Visa is being issued with the validity of 30 days. Further, he Government of India has announced first 500,000 free visa to the international tourists.**
- (ii) The Ministry of Tourism has revised the Guidelines for Scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) for promotion of Domestic Tourism in November 2020 to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme. As per the guidelines, the stakeholders are provided with financial support for the promotion of Domestic Tourism. Additional promotional activities have been incorporated including online promotions and the extent of financial assistance permissible has been enhanced. Tourism Departments of State Governments / UT Administrations are also now eligible for obtaining financial support under the scheme Approval of Travel Trade Service Provider.**
- (iii) The Ministry of Tourism has revised the guidelines for the recognition/approval of Service provider into a consolidated one single Guideline for 'Recognition of Tourism Service Providers by the Ministry of Tourism' in December, 2020 so as to enhance their reach and scope.**

**The revised Guidelines is effective from January, 2021. Recognition, under the revised guidelines, will be granted under three broad sub-categories (1) Tour Operators (Inbound, Domestic, Adventure, MICE),(2) Travel Agents, and (3) Tourist Transport Operators.**

**These three sub-categories will include Operators/ Agencies making required arrangements for tourists through online mode also.**

**A Category of Greenshoot/ Start-up Agencies has been introduced for the first time, to encourage the principles of Aatmanirbhar.**

- (iv) The Ministry had launched the Dekho Apna Desh initiative in January 2020, which is being promoted extensively on social media accounts and website of the Ministry and by Domestic India Tourism offices. Under this initiative Ministry has been organizing webinars, quiz, pledge, discussions, road shows to keep connected with the stake-holders and to encourage citizens to travel within the country. A total of 109 Webinars under the Dekho Apna Desh brand line have been organized by the Ministry, since its launch.**
- (v) Promotional campaigns are carried out on social media handles of the Ministry and Domestic Offices promoting destinations, products, festivals, cuisines etc. of the country.**

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