

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1423
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

IMPACT OF TOURISM ON GOA DURING THE PANDEMIC

1423. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that Tourism was allowed in Goa during Covid-19 pandemic despite resistance from the local population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry studied the impact of tourism during pandemic on the death toll in Goa, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has plans to balance tourism activities with the needs of the local people in mind, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): During the first wave of the Pandemic, there was a lockdown and all hotels were shut down. Since, there were many tourists stranded in Goa, only those hotels were allowed to keep their hotels open to cater to those stranded passengers with all assistance provided by the government in the form of necessities like food, medical supplies etc. However, as the Industry had suffered huge losses due to the lockdown, government decided to start hotel operations from 08.07.2020 with strict Standard Operating Procedures. Those hotels willing to commence their operations had to comply with the separate registration process for Commencement of Hospitality Services with strict Covid-19 protocols and guidelines to be followed by the hoteliers with regards to tourists and staff by maintaining high standards of sanitation, temperature checking and maintaining social distancing.

(c): No state-wise formal study has been instituted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to study the impact of pandemic on tourism.

(d): Yes, Sir. In order to resume tourism activities, Government of Goa has put in place very robust vaccination programme wherein additional centers of vaccination have been opened to cater to the vaccinations demands. At present 2.22 Lakhs of the population have been vaccinated with one dose and 10.42 Lakhs has been administered both doses.
