

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2236
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2021

INTEGRATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS AND GUIDES

2236.SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to integrate travel agents and guides all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no Central Government approval is given to travel and tour operators by any Government body;
- (d) whether the apex body like International Air Transport Association (IATA) are working for Government as a nodal agency for various travel and tour operators in the country; and
- (e) if so, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The role of travel agents and the guides are different in the travel industry. In most of the cases travel agents hire guides to take the tourists around tourist places.

(c): To ensure the standardized services for tourists, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in accordance with its guidelines, gives recognition/ approval to different categories of service providers in the Travel and Hospitality industry including Tour Operator (TO)/ Travel Agents (TA)/ Tourist Transport Operator (TTO) etc. for five years, in each category. This is purely a voluntary scheme and is not mandatory for the service providers to seek approval of the Ministry of Tourism.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Tourism work in close coordination with travel and trade stakeholders associations such as Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI), Travel Agent Association of India (TAAI), Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI), Indian Tourist Transporters Association (ITTA) and seek their suggestion/ input/advice from time to time, as the situation demands.
