

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.97
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE TOURISM AFTER PANDEMIC

97. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

- (a) the details of steps taken to promote responsible tourism in the country;**
- (b) whether the tourism sector has been badly affected due to the pandemic;**
- (c) if so, the details of action to rejuvenate the tourism sector in the country;**
- (d) whether there is a steep fall in the number of tourists; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and relaxations announced so far to attract the tourists?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI. G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tourism has recognized the immense potential of responsible/sustainable tourism in becoming a source of sustainable livelihoods and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this connection, the Ministry has taken following steps:

- (i). Evolved Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for major segments of the tourism industry. The Criteria has been evolved after consultations with the various stakeholders.**
- (ii) Formulated a draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism.**
- (iii) Formulated guidelines for classification of hotels under various categories, which require hotels to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Rain Water Harvesting System, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for**

refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc.

(iv) Prescribed that the architecture of the hotel buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should be sustainable and energy efficient and as far as possible be in conformity with the local ethos and make use of local designs and material.

(v) Tour operators approved by Ministry of Tourism have to sign a pledge for commitment towards Safe & Honourable and Sustainable Tourism to fully implement Sustainable Tourism practices, consistent with the best environment and heritage protection standards.

(b) & (c): Tourism sector has been severely hit by the pandemic and the action taken by the Government to rejuvenate the sector is placed at Annexure:

(d) & (e): The number of foreign tourist arrivals during 2019 were 10.93 million which decreased to 2.74 million in 2020. The number of Domestic Tourists visits in India during 2019 were 2321982663 which decreased to 610216157.

Keeping in view the improvement in COVID situation in country and subject to Covid related Guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as applicable to international travelers, it was decided that all foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist visa through Chartered flights (for group tourism only) from 15th October 2021; and all individual foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes are being allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist visa/Tourist Visa w.e.f. 15th November 2021. Further Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa of foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism will have to be utilized within 120 days from the date of issue of such visa/Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). Fresh Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa will remain valid for single entry for up to 30 days from the date of entry into India. Relaxation of visa and travel restrictions for foreign tourists is not country-specific.
