

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 299**  
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

**ASSISTANCE TO TOURISM INDUSTRY**

299. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry in India is currently facing one of its worst crises in history with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken or have been taken to assist the tourism industry to come out of this crisis; and
- (c) whether Government has given any financial assistance to those who are not working in the organised tourism sector, if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the tourism industry in India is currently facing one of its worst crises with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) & (c): The Government of India has announced various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures which are expected to assist the tourism industry, including those working in the unorganised tourism sector, to come out of the crisis. The measures are detailed at Annexure.

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## ANNEXURE

### STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) AND (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 299 ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022 REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO TOURISM INDUSTRY

The following are the various fiscal and non-fiscal relief measures which are expected to assist the tourism industry to come out of the crisis:

- 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 31st December 2020.
- viii. Ministry of Finance gave 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 gave 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.
- ix. 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 31.03.2022 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 4.5 lakh crore are issued, whichever is earlier. 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>
Travel and Tourism	ECLGS 3.0	2,732	1,371.62
Hospitality	ECLGS 3.0	3,160	5,430.96
Hotels, Restaurants, Tourism	ECLGS 2.0	218	3,403.90
Tourism, Hotels & Restaurants	ECLGS 1.0	96,219	3559.43
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,02,329</b>	<b>13,765.91</b>

- x. On 28th 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. On 12th November 2020, the Government announced the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana- to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana has been extended till 31st March 2022.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. 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.
- xvi. 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 31st March 2022.
- xvii. The Guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance Programme under the Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme have been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders in the tourism industry.
- xviii. Free Tourist Visa to 5 Lakh: As per the announcement, once Visa issuance is restarted, the first 5 lakh Tourists Visas will be issued free of charge. The benefit of free of charge visa will be available only once per tourist during the issuance of the first 5 lakh tourist visas (free of charge visas). The scheme will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till 5,00,000 visas are issued, whichever is earlier.
- xix. Financial support under the "Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Tourism Service Sector (LGSCATSS)". The scheme will cover Regional Level Tourist Guides recognised by the Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides recognised by the State Governments/ UT Administrations and Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS) recognized by the Ministry of Tourism. TTS's will be eligible to get a loan upto Rs. 10 lakh each while tourist guides can avail loan upto Rs 1 lakh each. There will be no processing charges, waiver of foreclosure / prepayment charges and no requirement of additional collateral. Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Tourism through NCGTC.
- xx. Recognising the fact that revival in the tourism sector will be largely spearheaded by Domestic tourism, the Ministry initiated arranging a series of webinars under the overall theme of Dekho Apna Desh. The objective is to generate awareness and at the same time sustain interest amongst stakeholders, students and the general public.

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