

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.302
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

REPRESENTATION FROM IATO

302. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether Government has received any representation from the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) for one-time financial assistance and relaxation of seven-day quarantine rule for travelers from non-high risk countries, to help prevent closure of business and jobs losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to revive current tourism industry by bringing more foreign tourists to the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The representation of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) regarding one-time financial assistance and relaxation of seven-day quarantine rule for travelers from non-high risk countries has been received in the Ministry of Tourism and this has been forwarded to the concerned Ministries such as Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) for consideration and taking appropriate action.

(c): Following are the steps taken by the Government to revive current tourism industry by bringing more foreign tourists in the Country:

- i. The Government allowed foreign nationals to enter into India for tourism purpose on e- Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa through Chartered flight (for Group Tourism only) w.e.f 15th October,2021 and for Individual foreign nationals w.e.f 15th November,2021.
- ii. Free Tourist Visa to 5 Lakh Tourists: 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.
- iii. The Ministry of Tourism under its Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme promotes India as a holistic destination in the tourism generating markets overseas with a view to attract foreign tourists and increase India's share of the global tourism market. The above objectives are met through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy, and a synergized campaign in association with the Travel Trade, State Governments and Indian Missions.
- iv. The Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) programme of the Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme provides for extending financial assistance to approved Tourism Service Providers and States Government/ Union Territory Administrations for undertaking promotion of tourism to India in the overseas markets.
