

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.628
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

REVISION OF IITF CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

628 SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether Government recognizes the scarce number of youth employed in the tourism sector;
- (b) the statistical data and beneficiaries of the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme;
- (c) whether Government intends to bring any revisions to the IITF Certification Programme in view of less number of youth employed in the sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Tourism and Hospitality sector is one of the largest employment generating sector in India and has been contributing towards generation of major chunk of Foreign Exchange Earning (FEE). As per the 3rd TSA (Tourism Satellite Account) for years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 the contribution of tourism to employment of the country is as follows:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Share in jobs (in %)	14.78	14.87	15.34
Direct (%)	6.44	6.48	6.69
Indirect (%)	8.34	8.39	8.65
Direct + Indirect jobs due to tourism (in million)	72.69	75.85	79.86

(b): As on 18.07.2022, exams for 03 batches of Incredible India Tourism Facilitator (IITF) basic certificate course has been successfully conducted, under which a total of 3795 candidates have been declared successful and certificates are being issued to them after completion of their police verification. Under the revised guideline for IITF Certification Program, the existing regional Level Guides (RLGs) have been renamed as Incredible India Tourist Guides (IITGs). A total number of 1795 IITGs (formally known as RLGs) have successfully completed the Refresher course.

(c) and (d): The IITFC programme was launched on 01.01.2020 with an objective to create a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators across the country. This is a digital initiative which provides an Online learning platform under IITFC programme for basic, advanced (heritage and adventure), spoken language and refresher courses for candidates. The guidelines for IITFC has been framed keeping in mind market demand, request from tourism stakeholders etc. Recently, as per the request received from the stakeholders, the minimum educational criteria has been raised to Graduation or equivalent degree for IITG (Advance & Heritage) course.
