

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.942
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

**FINANCIAL LOSS SUFFERED BY TOURISM,
TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR**

942 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has not allocated adequate funds to Tamil Nadu inspite of the fact Tamil Nadu being one of the top leading States attracting large number domestic and international tourists in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the quantum of financial losses suffered by tourism, travel and hospitality sector in the country since 2019; and
- (c) the proactive steps taken by the Central Government in this regard and to rejuvenate tourism and hospitality sector in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): No, Sir. The details of projects sanctioned in the State of Tamil Nadu under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes is given at Annexure.

(b): Ministry of Tourism has conducted a study on "India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery – Phase II". In this regard, the Impact on Tourism Direct Gross Value Added (TDGVA) is as follows:

- While the overall economy showed a decline of 11.8 per cent, in nominal terms, in the first quarter of 2020-21 over the corresponding quarter in 2018-19 (a full normal pre-pandemic year), the tourism economy or TDGVA saw a much greater fall of 49.6 per cent in the same quarter owing to the supply side shock.
- However, considering the demand side impact too, which presents the most likely loss in TDGVA, it is estimated that TDGVA plummeted by as much as 93.0 per cent in Q1 of 2020-21 over its level in the same quarter of FY 2018-19. This represents the impact of the first wave.
- The second wave had almost the similar impact on tourism economy when TDGVA fell by 87.2 percent in Q1 of FY 2021-22. The third wave had a lesser impact but the tourism economy posted a negative growth throughout 2020-21 and 2021-22 over the pre-pandemic level in 2018-19.

(c): Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/initiatives over the years for development and promotion of tourism in the country including Tamil Nadu to rejuvenate tourism and the hospitality sector, as per details given below:

- i. Development of tourism related infrastructure is done through projects sanctioned under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes.
- ii. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.
- iii. Financial assistance has also been provided to the State Governments/Union Territories for organizing fairs/festivals & tourism related events under Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) Scheme.
- iv. Dekho Apna Desh initiative launched with the objective to encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- v. Thematic tourism like wellness tourism, culinary tourism, rural, eco-tourism, etc. amongst other niche subjects are promoted so as to expand the scope of tourism into other sectors as well.
- vi. Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for nationals of 167 countries.
- vii. e-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
- viii. Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%; those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.
- ix. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 59 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the RCS UDAN Scheme, for which Ministry of Tourism extends financial support in form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 53 of these routes have been operationalized to improve air connectivity to tourist destinations.
- x. Ministry of Tourism is running Pan-India Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Program, a digital initiative that aims at creating an online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators/Guides across the country and generating employment opportunities at local level.
- xi. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.
- xii. The National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI), is a technology driven system, which is to facilitate digitalization and promote ease of doing business for hospitality & tourism sector. This initiative has been upgraded as NIDHI+ to have more inclusivity, that is, of not only Accommodation Units, but also Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators, Food & Beverage Units, Online Travel Aggregators, Convention Centres and Tourist Facilitators.
- xiii. To mitigate the losses suffered during the Corona virus pandemic, the Government introduced schemes like ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) and CGS (Credit Guarantee Scheme) under CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises).

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.942 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023 REGARDING FINANCIAL LOSS SUFFERED BY TOURISM, TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Tamil Nadu	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of (Chennai-Mamamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)	73.13	69.48

PRASHAD Scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Project Name	Sanction Year	Approved Cost	Amount Released
1.	Tamil Nadu	Development of Kanchipuram	2016-17	13.99	13.99
2.		Development of Velankanni	2016-17	4.86	4.86

Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Name of Projects	Central Agency	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
Year 2012-13					
1.	Tamil Nadu	Cruise Passenger Facilities Centre in the existing Passenger Terminal at Chennai Port	Chennai Port Trust	17.25	17.25
Year 2017-18					
2.	Tamil Nadu	Joint Development of Rameshwaram Railway Station	M/o Railways	4.70	3.76
Year 2018-19					
3.	Tamil Nadu	Joint Development of Madurai Railway Station	M/o Railways	4.48	3.56
