

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:707

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

RECOGNITION TO DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATORS

Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give recognition to domestic tour operators in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the suggestions/ requests received by the Government so far from such operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) and (b) : With the objective to give stimulus to promotion and development of domestic tourism and to encourage high quality services, the Ministry of Tourism has launched a voluntary scheme to approve bonafide Domestic Tour Operators. Some salient conditions which must be fulfilled by the Domestic Tour Operators to receive government recognition are as follows:

1. the operator should have a minimum paid up capital of rupees five lakhs and a turnover of rupees twenty lakhs.
2. the operator should have been in operation for a minimum period of one year and have a minimum office space of 250 sq.ft.
3. the operator must employ a minimum of 4 appropriately qualified staff.
4. the operator should be an income tax assessee.
5. After recognition is granted, the operator must follow the terms and conditions laid down by the Government, from time to time

(c): The guidelines for approval of Domestic Tour Operators have been formulated in consultation with the Travel Trade Associations.