

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3605  
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010  
RECOGNITION OF TOUR OPERATORS  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) the criteria and procedure followed in according recognition and renewal of existing recognition of a tour operator;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to simplify the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to extend the duration of such recognition from the present tenure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a): Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends approval of recognition to service providers of Travel Trade viz., Inbound Tour Operator, Domestic Tour Operator, Adventure Tour Operator, Tourist Transport Operator & Travel Agent. The aims & objectives of the scheme for recognition are to encourage quality standard by service providers and to promote tourism in India. This is a voluntary scheme, open to all bonafide service providers, to bring them in organized sector. The approval of recognition is granted for five years and further renewed to five years for which applications in the prescribed format along with the requisite documents are to be submitted to Ministry of Tourism/Regional Director concerned by the service provider.

(b) to (e): The guidelines regarding grant of recognition and renewal are reviewed and modified/simplified from time to time in consultation with the stakeholders. The guidelines were last revised on 4th December 2009.