

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3106

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015

PROMOTION OF TOURISM

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

- (a) whether the Government has any modalities to increase Trained Guides at National Tourist Places;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to train guides along with the list of dedicated institutes established by the Government to impart training to tourist guides;
- (c) the number of tourist guides in the country those getting indirect employment from the tourism industry; and
- (d) the details of procedure for issuing licenses to the tourist guides?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the guidelines for Selection and Grant of Guide License to Regional Level Tourist Guides (RLG 2011). As per these guidelines, the requirement of tourist guides is assessed region-wise, based on the inbound tourist arrivals, number of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) monuments, available licensed guides, growth potential, availability of assignments to guides and all other relevant factors and is normally done once in two years by the Ministry through a pre-defined process.

The process of selection is undertaken by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM), Gwalior or any other Institute designated by the Ministry of Tourism for conducting this process.

The applications are invited through open advertisement specifying the seats available for training, region wise.

(c): There are 2996 Ministry of Tourism approved Regional Level Tourist Guides in the country.

(d): The selection of candidates for training and issuance of guide license is based on an entrance test conducted to evaluate the general intelligence and suitability of applicants for admission to guide training. A merit list of all applicants who pass the entrance test is prepared on the basis of aggregated marks. On the basis of merit in the entrance test, the qualifying applicant are called for open counseling and document verification. The admission against available seats is offered strictly on the merit basis subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions. Thereafter, the candidate undergoes the guide training course for 26 weeks including field training. At the end of the training programme an examination consisting of written test is held. After passing written test, the trainees undergo a viva-voce test where the guiding skills knowledge of monuments/destinations, communication skills, fluency in foreign language (wherever applicable) etc. is tested. After passing both the written test and viva-voce, the trainee is eligible for guide training license.

The detailed guidelines for induction of Regional Level Tourist Guides is available on [www.tourism.gov.in](http://www.tourism.gov.in).