

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4312
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015
LICENSE TO TOURIST GUIDES
Sahu Shri Chandu Lal

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on tourism industry regarding number of foreign tourists visiting in future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of people getting employment from tourism as tourist guides, State-wise; and
- (d) the procedure for granting license to tourist guides?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): No, Madam.

Ministry of Tourism has not done any survey for forecasting the number of foreign tourist arrivals in India.

(c): 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). There are 3467 Regional Level Tourist Guides in the country approved by Ministry of Tourism. The State/UT-wise break-up of the approved Regional Level Tourist Guides are given in Annexure.

(d): 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.

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 applicants are called for open counselling and document verification. The admission against available seats is offered strictly on the merit basis subject to fulfilment 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.