

OTOAI meets Tourism Minister; hopeful to get some relief

New Delhi: May 28, 2020:: In continuation of its efforts to highlight the issues and concerns of the outbound industry to those in office of power, Riaz Munshi, President, Outbound Tour Operators of India (OTOAI), today met up with the Honourable Tourism Minister, Sri Prahlad Singh Patel to discuss the woes of the tourism sector. At a detailed meeting held in the Ministry of Tourism Office, the Presidents of few leading Travel Trade Associations enumerated their demands / relief they are seeking from the Government to help sail the travel fraternity through this tough time.

OTOAI, since long, has been advocating a five-point agenda, comprising - roll-back of the TCS, not make Pan Card mandatory for foreign remittances for foreign nationals and non-resident Indians, grant relief from GST, allow outbound tour operators to take interest free loans and expansion of working capital.

“The Tourism Minister listened patiently to all that we had to say and was extremely sympathetic and understanding regarding all the issues. He has assured us that roll-back of TCS, not making pan card necessary for foreign remittances and allowing outbound tour operators to take interest free loan are some of the issues that will be taken up with the government on priority. The honourable Minister is hopeful that all the three issues will have a positive outcome and that relief on these fronts will be announced soon. We are also keeping our fingers crossed for the same,” said Riaz Munshi.

Another issue which was also discussed during the meeting was about the capital inducement for the MSME, which is currently only available for the existing customers who are availing overdraft or loan facilities. The Tourism Minister has assured us that he will look in to this concern as well.

Meanwhile, OTOAI, through various social media updates and press support, is working judiciously to highlight the concerns of the outbound tour operators at various forums.