

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2387
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

TOURISM IN SIMLIPAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN ODISHA

2387 SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to enhance the infrastructure facilities in Simlipal Biosphere Reserve in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this Forest Reserve has potential to grow-up as a mega tourist place; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken by Government for the infrastructure and tourism development projects for this Forest Reserve?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): As conveyed by the Odisha State Forest Department, Simlipal Biosphere Reserve has immense potential to become a mega tourist destination. Its rich biodiversity, including tigers, elephants and diverse plant species, orchids along with stunning waterfall like Barehipani, Uski and Joranda, make it a prime location for eco-tourism and wildlife tourism.

Government of Odisha has taken steps to improve infrastructure facilities within the limits of prevalent rules and regulations, which are as per following:-

- Development of website for online booking of entry tickets to Simlipal Tiger Reserve and visitor information.
- Regular maintenance of tourist facilities like Ticket counter, Toilets and Interpretation centre.
- Inclusion of Safari vehicles along with battery operated vehicles and periodic maintenance of roads.
- Developing eco-tourism facilities like local community based nature camps, nature trails, open jungle safaris and Tribal information centre.
- Development of tourism spots like Jaroda, Barehipani, Gurguria, Uski and along with Ramthirtha in Jashipur.
- Implementing conservation strategies, including fire mitigation measures and community involvement in forest management.
