

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1425
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

PROMOTION OF ECO-TOURISM IN NER

1425 SHRI JOGEN MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the progress of eco-tourism projects in the North Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) the details of eco-tourism projects sanctioned in Assam during the last three years;
- (c) whether local communities and Self Help Groups are being involved in such projects; and
- (d) the steps taken to promote sustainable tourism in the region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations, including eco-tourism, is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG) /Union Territory Administration (UTA). However, the Ministry of Tourism through its schemes ‘Swadesh Darshan (SD)’, ‘Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)’, ‘Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)’ – a sub-scheme of SD2.0, and ‘Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’ complements the efforts of SG/UTA. In addition, Government of India under its initiative for ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale’ scheme, has also provided financial assistance in the year 2024-25 to the States for development of tourism projects. The projects are sanctioned subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by SG/UTA, availability of funds, Government directions, inter-se priority etc.

Ministry of Tourism regularly monitors progress of its ongoing sanctioned projects including those in the North Eastern Region (NER), through review meetings with SGs/ UTAs, which are held at various levels from time to time. Also, Ministry of Tourism has developed a Program Management Information System (PMIS) which is a unified digital platform to facilitate seamless information communication, sharing and reporting system in respect of the projects undertaken as parts of Ministry’s various schemes. Ministry of Tourism and SGs/UTAs including project implementing agencies are integral part of this system.

The details of the projects sanctioned under above schemes in the State of Assam including eco-tourism projects is annexed.

Various aspects of sustainable and responsible tourism are embedded in the guidelines of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and CBDD Scheme. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has also formulated “National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism”.

Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic tourism destination including sustainability, responsible tourism practices. Ministry also promotes various tourism destinations through various medium including social media, websites and participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.

The Ministry regularly encourages State Governments/ UT Administrations to engage with local communities and to ensure robust operation & management (O&M) of completed projects so as to increase footfall, generate local employment and enhance overall tourist satisfaction.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1425 ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING PROMOTION OF ECO-TOURISM IN NER RAISED BY SHRI JOGEN MOHAN

(i) Details of the projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Assam:

S. No.	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Wildlife 2015-16	Development of Manas–Probitora–Nameri–Kaziranga–Dibru–Saikhowa	94.68
2.	Heritage 2016-17	Development of Tezpur – Majuli – Sibsagar	90.98

(ii) Details of the projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme in the State of Assam:

S No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar Wetland Experience	2023-24	26.68
2.	Jorhat	Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate	2023-24	23.88

(iii) Details of the projects sanctioned under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) in the State of Assam:

S. No.	Destination /Category	Name of the Experience	Sanction Year	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Sivasagar (Eco-tourism and Amrit Dharohar Sites)	Panidhing Bird Sanctuary	2024-25	9.99

(iv) Details of the projects sanctioned under SASCI Scheme in the State of Assam:

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	2024-25	Assam State Zoo Cum Botanical Garden in Guwahati	97.12
2.	2024-25	Beautification of Rang Ghar in Sivasagar	94.76

(v) Details of the projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Assam:

S. No.	Sanction Year	Project Name	Sanction Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1.	2015-16	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	29.80
