

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*109  
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023**

**PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE AND FOREST TOURISM**

**\*109. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:**

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

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated for promotion of wildlife and forest tourism in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the scope of the same in various States/UTs including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;**
- (c) whether there is a big potential for wildlife and forest tourism in the country;**
- (d) if so, the steps taken to tap the potential and for promotion of the wildlife and forest tourism in the notified Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries within the country including Maharashtra State;**
- (e) whether any scheme has been put in place to involve local communities as stakeholders in the development of sustainable wildlife and forest tourism; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided by the Government for promoting sustainable wildlife and forest tourism during the last five years, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu State?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.\*109 ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023 REGARDING PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE AND FOREST TOURISM BY DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE AND SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI.**

**(a) to (f): The Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Swadesh Darshan identified Wildlife Circuit and Eco Circuit as among 15 thematic circuits for development. The above circuits cover National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Reserves in the country. The details of projects sanctioned under the Wildlife and Eco Circuits of Swadesh Darshan scheme in various States/UTs is at Annexure. No project has been sanctioned in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu under the above two circuits of the scheme.**

**Ministry of Tourism has now revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist and destination centric approach. Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Mamallapuram and The Nilgirs in Tamil Nadu have been identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.**

**Apart from the above, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has conveyed the following:-**

- (i) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowers the States/UTs, including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, for declaration of an area as Sanctuary and National Park, if it considers such area is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geo-morphological, natural or zoological significance. The management of such designated areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserve) is within the ambit of the respective States/UTs. Such**

**management interventions may also include Eco-Tourism activities in these areas. The Ministry has issued guidelines for preparation of management plans for these areas in accordance with the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 on 30.11.2023.**

- (ii) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued 'Guidelines for Sustainable Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas-2021' on 29.10.2021. It promotes engagement of local communities in nature tourism in a manner that enriches local economy and encourages sustainable use of indigenous materials through financially viable value chains thereby helping such local communities become "Atma Nirbhar". The Guidelines also includes potential sites of Eco Tourism in the country, including Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli), Lonar and Thane Creek Flamingo in Maharashtra and Gulf of Mannar Marine, Vedanthangal and Point Calimere in Tamil Nadu.**
- (iii) Further, MoEFCC has also circulated guidelines for preparation of management plans for protected areas which also includes tourism activities.**
- (iv) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has also notified the 'Normative Standards for tourism activities and Project Tiger guidelines, 2012'.**

**In addition to above, Ministry of Tourism has formulated National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism. Following strategic pillars have been identified for development of sustainable tourism:**

- (i) Promoting Environmental Sustainability**
- (ii) Protecting Biodiversity**
- (iii) Promoting Economic Sustainability**
- (iv) Promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability**

- (v) Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism**
- (vi) IEC and Capacity Building**
- (vii) Governance**

**Also, as part of its on-going activities, the Ministry of Tourism regularly promotes India as a holistic tourism destination including wildlife and forest tourism through various mediums including social media and through its website [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org).**

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.\*109 ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023 REGARDING PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE AND FOREST TOURISM BY DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE AND SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI**

**Details of projects sanctioned under the Wildlife and Eco Circuits of Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the country**

**WILDLIFE CIRCUIT****(Rupees in crore)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of State</b>	<b>Year of sanction</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned</b>	<b>Amount Released</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Circuit at Panna-Mukundpur- Sanjay-Dubri-Bandhavgarh-Kanha- Mukki- Pench.</b>	<b>92.10</b>	<b>86.31</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Assam</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Manas- Pobitora- Nameri- Kaziranga- Dibru- Saikhowa.</b>	<b>94.68</b>	<b>89.94</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>186.78</b>	<b>176.25</b>

**ECO CIRCUIT****(Rupees in crore)**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of State</b>	<b>Year of sanction</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned</b>	<b>Amount Released</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Circuit at Tehri-Chamba- Sarain around Tehri Lake.</b>	<b>69.17</b>	<b>69.17</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Telangana</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Circuit in Mahaboobnagar districts (Somasila, Singotam, Kadalaivanam, Akkamahadevi, Egalanpanta, Farahabad, Uma Maheshwaram,</b>	<b>91.62</b>	<b>91.25</b>

			<b>Mallelatheertham)</b>		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi-Vagamon- Thekkady.</b>	<b>64.08</b>	<b>64.08</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit at Aizawl -Rawpuichhip - Khawhphawp - Lengpui – Durtlang - Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee – Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield – Hmuifang</b>	<b>66.37</b>	<b>53.09</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- BhedaGhat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River</b>	<b>93.76</b>	<b>89.07</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Development of Dalma- Chandil- Getalsud- BetlaNational park- Mirchaiya- Netarhat</b>	<b>30.44</b>	<b>28.83</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>415.44</b>	<b>395.49</b>

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