

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.193
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

PROMOTION OF VARIOUS TOURIST CIRCUITS

193. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the key discussions and outcomes from the National Conference of State Tourism Ministers, particularly focusing on the strategies and policies discussed for the growth and development of tourism in India;**
- (b) the initiatives and schemes undertaken to promote various tourist circuits, including the newly proposed 'Ambedkar Circuit' and the promotion of the Himalayan Circuit; and**
- (c) the key features and objectives of the upcoming National Tourism Policy, and how it aligns with the vision of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi'?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism organizes National State Tourism Ministers Conferences/Meetings from time to time to have a conversation with the State Governments to put in place a vision for the tourism sector. The details of the National State Tourism Ministers Conferences/Meetings organized during the period 2014-22 are as follows:

- National Conference of State Tourism Ministers in New Delhi on 21st August, 2014.**
- National Conference of Tourism Ministers in New Delhi on 20th August 2019.**
- Video Conference Meeting of State Tourism Ministers on 15th & 16th October 2020.**
- National Conference of State Tourism Ministers in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh from 18th to 20th September 2022.**
- Video Conference Meeting of State Tourism Ministers on 21st September 2023.**

These conferences/meetings initiated a high-level discussion on policies/programmes and for closer cooperation with the various stakeholders for the development and growth of the tourism sector in the country.

(b): Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of Swadesh Darshan 1.0 has identified 15 themes for the development of tourism circuits including the Himalayan Circuit with the objective of development of tourism infrastructure. A total of 7 projects have been sanctioned under the theme of Himalayan Circuit for an amount of Rs.587.92 Crore. The details of projects sanctioned under this scheme are given at Annexure.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, IRCTC has launched the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yatra by Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train. The 7-nights / 8-days tour was launched on the special occasion of the 132nd Birth Anniversary of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar in 2023. The Ministry of Tourism organized a FAM trip on the Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour on the Ambedkar Circuit to promote and popularize this special initiative. A group of stakeholders including Tour Operators, Tour Guides, Journalists, Buddhist Associations, Gautam Buddha University and members of Yuva Tourism Club were hosted on the FAM Trip.

(c): Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the relevant Central Ministries, State Tourism Departments and Industry Stakeholders, has formulated a draft National Tourism Policy 2023. The key strategic objectives of the draft National Tourism Policy 2023 are as follows:

- (i) To enhance the contribution of tourism in Indian economy by increasing the visitation, stay and spend and making India a year-round tourist destination.**
- (ii) To create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in tourism sector and ensure supply of skilled work force.**
- (iii) To enhance the competitiveness of tourism sector and attract private sector investment.**
- (iv) To preserve and enhance the cultural and natural resources of the country.**
- (v) To ensure sustainable, responsible and inclusive development of tourism in the country.**

The Draft National Tourism Policy envisages to encourage innovation, explore new markets, opening of new destinations and align tourism development to the Sustainable Development Goals by leveraging India's culture and heritage.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.193 ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023 REGARDING PROMOTION OF VARIOUS TOURIST CIRCUITS BY SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL.****HIMALAYAN CIRCUIT****(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year	Project Name	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourism Infrastructure Projects- Bhagwati Nagar	77.33
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourist Facilities at Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama	81.60
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourist Facilities under the Construction of Assets in lieu of those Destroyed in Floods in 2014 under PM Development Package for J&K	90.43
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai & Sudhmahadev	91.99
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourist Facilities at Anantnag-Kishtwar- Pahalgam – Daksum – RanjitSagar Dam.	86.39
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	(2016-17)	Development of Tourist Facilities at Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Leh	91.84
7.	Himachal Pradesh	(2016-17)	Development of Himalayan Circuit in Kiarighat, Shimla, Hatkoti, Manali, Kangra, Dharamshala, Bir, Palampur, Chamba	68.34
			Total	587.92
