

Government of India  
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.73**

To be answered on  
*Monday, July 18, 2022/Ashadha 27, 1944 (Saka)*

**QUESTION**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST LOCATIONS IN NER**

73. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to develop tourist locations in the North-East Region (NER) particularly in Assam, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to consider connecting important tourist locations in NER, thus creating a tourism trail, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any development plan centring around Dokreswar Dewalay, Chenga in Barpeta District and Bageshwari Temple at Bongaigaon, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the efforts made/being made by the Government to promote the region abroad.

**ANSWER**

**The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region**  
**[SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY]**

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) has sanctioned infrastructure projects relating to water supply, power, connectivity to support the tourism sector in the north east region (NER). Under NESIDS, 51 projects amounting to ₹1,647 crore connecting tourist locations in the NER have been sanctioned. Of these, 10 projects amounting to ₹637.14 crore are in the state of Assam.

The North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong undertakes activities for the promotion of NER and regional tourism, which are priority sectors under the 'Schemes of NEC'. Under this, the NEC has sanctioned 57 projects amounting ₹249.96 crore in the tourism sector in the last seven years. Further, 29 tourist circuits have been

identified by NEC and shared with the Ministry of Tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned tourist circuit projects, amounting to ₹1,254.07 crore in the NER under its 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme since 2014-15. One project has been sanctioned for Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the scheme 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' by the Ministry of Tourism, for development of nine points of river cruise on national waterways no. 1 & 2, out of which, four points, namely Neamati, Pandu, Jogighopa and Biswanath ghat are in Assam. Further, since 2014-15 the Ministry of Tourism has provided financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrators for organizing fairs and festivals and tourism related events in the NER. Under the Central Sector Scheme of 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)', the Ministry of Tourism funds projects for the integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations. As on date 69 destinations/sites have been identified for development under the scheme in 30 states/UTs. Of these, 20 sites are in the NER, which include Kamakhya temple and Srikrishnaguru Sevashram, Nasatra in Assam.

(c) No Sir, currently, the central government has no tourism development plans in these areas.

(d) India Tourism Offices Overseas along with Indian Missions abroad endeavour to position India as a preferred tourism destination and promote various tourism products and destinations including those in the NER and to increase India's share in the global tourism market. The Ministry of Tourism under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) programme extends financial support to approved tourism service providers and State Governments/UT Administrators for undertaking tourism promotion in the overseas markets. On the request of the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of External Affairs has Tourism Officers in the Indian Missions of top 20 source markets in 2021. The Ministry of Tourism has also conducted virtual road shows under the 'Incredible India Reconnect 2022' in Oman, United States of America, Germany, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Spain and the United Kingdom to project India as a preferred tourism destination.

Various tourism promoting events and festivals etc. such as the 'Sangai Festival', Manipur, 'Behdienkhlam Festival', Meghalaya and 'Hornbill Festival', Nagaland are supported by NEC to attract tourists from different parts of the country as well as abroad.

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