

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.959
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024**

TOURISM IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION

959 SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is providing adequate services to promote tourism in the North-Eastern Region;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the total number of tourists both domestic and foreign who visited the North-Eastern States during the last year; and**
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to create a barrier free environment for growth of tourism in the North-Eastern region?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tourism promotes India in a holistic manner, through various initiatives under its Schemes of “Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality” (DPPH) and “Overseas Promotion & Publicity (OPP)”. As part of its on-going activities; it regularly releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international markets, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India including North Eastern Region. The Ministry of Tourism also regularly promotes various tourism destinations and products through its website and social media promotions.

Ministry of Tourism has been organizing International Tourism Mart (ITM) in the North Eastern Region to showcase the tourism potential of North Eastern States of India. ITMs have been held at Shillong (Meghalaya), Gangtok (Sikkim), Imphal (Manipur), Guwahati (Assam), Agartala (Tripura), Kohima (Nagaland) and Aizawl (Mizoram).

The last i.e. 11th edition of ITM was held in Shillong (Meghalaya) from 21st to 23rd, November, 2023.

The Ministry of Tourism through its Central Institutes of Hotel Management (CIHMs) at Guwahati and Shillong, which are Autonomous Bodies, imparts professional education and training in the field of hospitality to create a pool of manpower sufficient to meet the needs of the tourism and hospitality industry, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism under its scheme Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP) has undertaken various skill development programs to provide education, training and certification to the tourism service providers covering different levels of Hospitality sector. The main objective of this initiative is to train and up-grade manpower at every strata of tourism service providers in order to capitalize the vast tourism potential of the country to the fullest, and provide professional expertise to the local populace as well as create fresh opportunities in the tourism sector both in urban as well as rural areas. This scheme is being run through the Central IHMs at Guwahati & Shillong, State IHMs in Sikkim, Food Craft Institutes in Assam & Meghalaya, Camp office of Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management at Shillong and through 11 Private institutes.

Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)', 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' provides financial assistance to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations/ Central Agencies for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country including North Eastern Region.

The Ministry of Tourism has now revamped the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations, following a destination & tourism centric approach.

The details of projects sanctioned under the above mentioned schemes in North Eastern region are given at Annexure.

(c): Details of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) of North eastern States for the year 2023 are below: -

(In thousand)		
States/ UTs	DTV (P)	FTV (P)
Arunachal Pradesh	1040.6	4.5
Assam	7612.7	23.8
Manipur	57.7	3.7
Meghalaya	1371.7	20.0
Mizoram	209.1	3.8
Nagaland	99.7	4.7
Sikkim	1321.2	93.9
Tripura	366.1	66.7
P: Provisional		
Source: State/UTs Tourism Department		

(d): Effective and adequate connectivity is one of the important aspect for developing a tourist destination. For this purpose, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India has launched RCS-UDAN scheme, whose primary objective is to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable. Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to extend financial support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS), with the purpose of further improving connectivity to important tourist places including Iconic sites.

Following routes from the States of NER have been included in Tourism RCS Routes:

Sl. No.	Route
1.	Dibrugarh to Dimapur
2.	Dimapur to Dibrugarh
3.	Dimapur to Imphal
4.	Imphal to Dimapur
5.	Agartala to Aizawl
6.	Aizawl to Agartala
7.	Dibrugarh to Imphal
8.	Imphal to Dibrugarh
9.	Hollongi (Arunachal Pradesh to Guwahati)
10.	Guwahati to Hollongi (Arunachal Pradesh)

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.959 ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024 REGARDING TOURISM IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION RAISED BY SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA.****Swadesh Darshan Scheme****(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	North-East Circuit 2014-15	Development of Bhalukpong- Bomdila and Tawang	49.77	47.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha	96.72	91.88
3.	Assam	Wildlife Circuit 2015-16	Development of Manas- Probitora- Nameri- Kaziranga- Dibru- Saikhowa	94.68	89.94
4.	Assam	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tezpur - Majuli - Sibsagar	90.98	90.97
5.	Manipur	North-East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Tourist Circuit in Manipur: Imphal- Khongjom	72.23	61.32
6.	Manipur	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri BijoyGovindajee Temple - Shri Gopinath Temple - Shri Bungshibodon Temple - Shri Kaina Temple	45.34	45.33
7.	Meghalaya	North East	Development of	99.13	99.11

		Circuit 2016-17	Umium (Lake View), U LumSohpetbneng- Mawdiangdiang – Orchid Lake Resort		
8.	Meghalaya	North East Circuit 2018-19	Development of West Khasi Hills (Nongkhlaw- KremTiro – Khudoi&Kohmang Falls – Khri River- Mawthadraishan, Shillong), Jaintia Hills (Krang Suri Falls- Shyrmang- looksi), Garo Hills (Nokrek Reserve, KattaBeel, Siju Caves)	84.97	84.96
9.	Mizoram	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Thenzawl& South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek.	92.26	92.26
10.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit 2016-17	Development of Eco- Adventure Circuit Aizawl -Rawpuichhip – Khawhphawp – Lengpui – Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee – Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield – Hmuifang	66.37	53.09
11.	Nagaland	Tribal Circuit 2015-16	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren- Kohima- Wokha	97.36	97.36
12.	Nagaland	Tribal Circuit 2016-17	Development of Mokokchung- Tuensang-Mon	98.14	98.14
13.	Sikkim	North East Circuit	Development of Tourist Circuit linking Rangpo(entry)	98.05	97.41

		2015-16	- Rorathang- Aritar- Phadamchen- Nathang-Sherathang- Tsongmo- Gangtok- Phodong- Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang- Lachen- Thangu- Gurudongmer- Mangan- Gangtok- TuminLingee- Singtam (exit)		
14.	Sikkim	North East Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourist Circuit Linking Singtam- Maka- Temi- BermoikTokel- Phongia- Namchi - Jorthang- Okharey- Sombaria-Daramdin- Jorethang- Melli (Exit)	95.32	95.32
15.	Tripura	North East Circuit 2015-16	Development of Agartala - Sipahijala - Melaghar - Udaipur - Amarpur- Tirthamukh- Mandirghat- Dumboor- NarikelKunja- Gandachara- Ambassa	82.85	77.76
16.	Tripura	North East Circuit 2018-19	Development of SurmaCherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati - Bhunaneshwari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chottakhola- Pilak- Avangchaarra	44.83	35.25

Swadesh Darshan 2.0**(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Destination	Interventions Name	Sanctioned Cost
1	Sikkim	Gangtok	Gangtok Cultural Village	22.59
2	Meghalaya	Sohra	Meghalayan age Cave Experience	32.45
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Mechuka	Mechuka Cultural Haat	18.48
4	Assam	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar Wetland Experience	26.67
5	Assam	Jorhat	Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate	23.91
6	Sikkim	Gyalshing	Eco-Wellness Experience at Yuksom Cluster	15.40
7	Arunachal Pradesh	Nacho	Unlock Nacho Expedition	14.02
8	Arunachal Pradesh	Mechuka	Mechuka Adventure Park	12.75
9	Meghalaya	Sohra	Waterfall Trails experience	27.84
10	Nagaland	Chumoukedima	Tribal Cultural Experience at Midway Retreat	21.56

PRASHAD Scheme**(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Project Name	Sanctioned Year	Sanctioned Cost	Released Cost
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Development of ParshuramKund, LohitDistt.	2020-21	37.88	21.95
2	Assam	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	2015-16	29.80	29.80
3	Meghalaya	Development of	2020-21	29.29	24.92

		Pilgrimage Facilitation in Meghalaya			
4	Mizoram	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism in the State of Mizoram	2022-23	44.89	6.52
5	Nagaland	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland	2018-19	25.20	21.33
6	Nagaland	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Zunheboto	2022-23	18.18	10.90
7	Sikkim	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	2020-21	33.32	28.31
8	Tripura	Development of Tripura Sundari Temple, Udaipur	2020-21	37.80	25.62

Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year	Name of Project	Agency	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Assam (Neamati, Pandu, Jogighopa & Biswanathghat)	2019-20	Ministry of Tourism has accorded approval for continuation of the development of 4 nos jetties in NW-2 (Brahmaputra)	IWAI	28.03	7.01
2.	Mizoram	2020-21	Development of Convention	WAPCOS	39.95	27.69

			Centre and associated Infrastructure at Aizawl, Mizoram			
3.	NER	2022-23	Development of 22 viewpoints in North Eastern States (i) Nagaland (2 view points) (ii) Meghalaya (3 view points) (iii) Mizoram (9 view points) (iv) Arunachal Pradesh (4 view points) (v) Manipur (3 view points) (vi) Sikkim/We st Bengal (1 view point)	NHIDCL	44.44	27.06
4.	Assam	2018-19	Joint Development of Kamakhya Railway Station	Ministry of Railways	4.96	4.02
5.	Assam	2018-19	Joint Development of Guwahati Railway Station	Ministry of Railways	4.99	4.34
