

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3232  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010  
TOURISM IN NORTH-EASTERN REGIONS  
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to relax some restrictions to promote tourism in the North-Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of domestic as well as foreign tourists visited the North-Eastern Regions alongwith the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years and the current year, State - wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) & (b): The review of restrictions pertaining to Restricted Area Permit (RAP)/Protected Area Permit (PAP) for tourists is a continuous process and is undertaken by Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposal from the concerned States and in consultation with security agencies. Ministry of Home Affairs has conveyed relaxation of Protected Area Regime in the following circuits of Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim:

Arunachal Pradesh:

- (i) Along – Mechukha.
- (ii) Existing Pasighat – Jenging – Yungkiang to be extended upto Tuting.
- (iii) Daporijo – Nacho Circuit via Taliha and Sayum.
- (iv) Ziro – Palin – Nyapin – Sangram – Kaloriang.
- (v) Doimukh – Sagalee – Pakke Kasang – Seppa.

Powers were delegated to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for issue of Protected Area Permit (PAP) in respect of the following:

- (i) To visiting foreign tourists in a group of two or more persons (as against the existing requirement of group strength of four or more persons) for a maximum period of 30 days.
- (ii) To a group of two foreign tourists even if they are not married couples and to foreigners married to Indian nationals belonging to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for visiting the State on tourist visas.

Sikkim:

(i) To issue PAP/RAP to foreign tourists in a group of two or above with a recognized travel agent, who would act as an escort. However, existing restrictions on visit of foreigners to Rumtek Monastery and restrictions on movement of Tibetan Refugees need to be enforced.

(ii) To issue PAP/RAP to visiting foreign tourists (subject to

(i) above) initially for a period of 30 days extendable to another spell of 30 days.

The powers to issue PAP/RAP to foreign tourists are also delegated to Tourism Information Officer posted at Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at Darjeeling (West Bengal) and Melli (Sikkim).

(c): The data on domestic & foreign tourist visits to North-Eastern region for the years 2007 – 2009 is at Annexure. The data on foreign exchange earned by the States is not compiled in the Ministry of Tourism.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3232 ANSWERED ON 13.08.2010 REGARDING TOURISM IN NORTH-EASTERN REGIONS.

Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits to North- Eastern States during the year 2007 to 2009

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1	Arunachal Pradesh	91100	2212	149292	3020	195147	3945
2	Assam	3436833	12899	3617306	14426	3850521	14942
3	Manipur	101484	396	112151	354	124229	337
4	Meghalaya	457685	5267	549936	4919	591398	4522
5	Mizoram	43161	669	55924	902	56651	513
6	Nagaland	22085	936	21129	1209	20953	1423
7	Sikkim	329075	17498	460564	19154	547810	17730
8	Tripura	244795	3181	245438	3577	317541	4246

**#Provisional**

Source: Marketing & Research Division, Ministry of Tourism.