

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1592

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

ECO TOURISM

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is immense potential for the development of eco- tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to tap its potential in the country;
- (c) the details of projects' proposals received and sanctioned focusing on eco-tourism in the country along with funds sanctioned and released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise indicating the criteria adopted for sanction of such projects;
- (d) whether the Government has also sanctioned and provided funds under the Development and beautification of Shiv Dam and Eco-tourism at Shahpur in Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof along with the works carried out so far;
- (e) whether the Government has considered allocating more funds to North-Eastern States in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for promoting eco-tourism through domestic and international campaigns indicating the seminars/events focusing on its development conducted during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)(DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI)

(a) & (b): Eco Tourism is one of the important segments of tourism industry in India. The Ministry of Tourism does not identify eco-tourism destinations for development. The development and promotion of tourism destinations and products including eco-tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government and Union Territory Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects including Eco-Tourism, identified in consultation with them, subject to inter-se priority, availability of funds and scheme guidelines.

(c): A list of projects focusing on eco-tourism for which Central Financial Assistance has been released to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations during the last three years and up to 30th November 2013, during the current year, is as at Annexure I.

(d): This Ministry has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 226.65 lakh for "Development & Beautification of Shiv Dam and Eco-tourism at Shahpur in Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh" under the scheme of Product Infrastructure Development of Destination and Circuit in the year 2011-12.

As informed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the works of Development of beautification of Eco Tourism Complex; construction for staircase from the River side of Gomti to main Eco Tourism Place; construction of RCC Pillar; chainlike, wire security, India brand hand pump (1); construction of ladies toilet (2); construction nature trail etc.; construction of signage display; construction of RCC bench (7); construction of tourism shade (1) and construction of landscapes dual slab, have been completed.

(e): 10% of the plan allocation of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is earmarked for the East and North Eastern Regions (ENER). Of the funds allocated to the Ministry, funds earmarked for the North Eastern Region during the last three years is at Annexure II.

(f): The Ministry of Tourism promotes eco-tourism, inter-alia, through its domestic and international campaigns and by providing financial support for seminars and events that focus on development of eco-tourism. The workshops/seminar/conferences conducted/supported by the Ministry of Tourism are as follows:

1. Bhopal International Conference on Sustainable Tourism 2013, organized by the Eco- Tourism Society of India from 18th to 19th April 2013.

2. United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Commission's Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development, held at Hyderabad from 12th to 14th April 2013.

3. Workshops on 'Practicing Responsible Tourism' organized by the Eco-Tourism Society of India at Guwahati from 23rd – 24th March 2012 and in Aurangabad from 27th – 28th April 2012.