

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1355
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the allocation of funds to various States including North-Eastern States for the promotion of tourism remains unutilised;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to relax the permit regime to promote tourism in the North-Eastern Region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) & (b): Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The execution and implementation of the projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned.

(c) & (d): The review of restrictions pertaining to Restricted Area Permit (RAP)/ Protected Area Permit (PAP) for tourists is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposal from the concerned States and in consultation with security agencies.

Recently, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has been authorised to issue Protected Area Permit (PAP) in respect of the following:-

- (i) To the 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 national belonging to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for visiting the State on tourist visas.

Similarly, Government of Sikkim has been delegated with the powers for issue of PAP/RAP regime in respect of the following:-

- (i) 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 visiting foreign tourists (subject to(i) above) initially for a period of 30 days extendable to another spell of 30 days.