

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5374
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
PROMOTION OF WILDLIFE TOURISM IN NER
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote wildlife tourism in the country especially in North-East Region (NER);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the tourist potential to these spots by upgrading hotels and connectivity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products including Wildlife Tourism and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects including ones with a focus on wildlife, subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

The details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for infrastructure development in and around wildlife sanctuaries etc., are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year Sanctioned	Amount
1.	Development of Tourism Infrastructure near Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary at Seijosa, East Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh	2007-08	336.51
2.	Tourist Circuit-Kaziranga Sibsagar MajuliJorhat (Eastern Assam Circuit), Assam	2008-09	453.490
3.	Destination Tourism Project at Sunderban, 24 Parganas South West Bengal	2011-12	488.530
4.	Destination Development at Mariyang, Dr. Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary and Borguli in Arunachal Pradesh (Tribal Area)	2013-14	499.200

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets. As a part of its promotional activities, the Ministry of Tourism releases campaigns in the international & domestic market under the Incredible India brand-line,

showcases various tourism destinations and products including its wildlife.

(c): Construction and up-gradation of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. The Ministry of Tourism, however, has advised the State Governments/ UT Administrations to follow tourism friendly policies for augmenting hotel room supply like allotting land sites for hotels on revenue sharing basis, granting extra Floor Space Index (FSI)/Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for hotels, Single Window approach for clearing hotel projects, rationalization of taxes. The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has also included the following in the Harmonised List of Infrastructure Sub Sectors to boost supply of hotel rooms in the country.

1. Three Star or higher category classified hotels located outside cities with population of more than 1 million.

2. Hotels with a project cost of more than Rs.200.00 crore each in any place in India and of any star rating. This clause is applicable with prospective effect from 07.10.2013, the date of notification and available for eligible prospects for three years from the date of notification i.e., 07.10.2013, the eligibility cost of Rs.200.00 crore excludes cost of land and lease charges but includes interest during construction.

The Ministry of Tourism has been interacting with the related Central Ministries namely the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for improving connectivity to tourist destinations in the country including the North Eastern region on a continuous basis.