# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3354
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015
Tourism Potential of Arunachal Pradesh
Ering Shri Ninong;Pathak Smt. Riti

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the huge tourism potential across the country especially in Arunachal Pradesh and Khajuraho and other tourist places in Madhya Pradesh;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government in consultation with State Governments for tapping the potential of tourism in these areas;
(c) whether any tourism projects are under consideration for development of tourism in these States;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the achievement made so far in this regard along with the funds allocated by the Government to various States in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise including Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh?

# Answer

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

(a) and (b): Ministry of Tourism had conducted a Study on identification of Tourism Circuits in each State (except North Eastern States) and Union Territory (UT), in association with the States/UTs, for integrated development. For identification of Tourism Circuits in the North Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh, a study was conducted by the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. These reports were shared with the respective States/UTs for further necessary action as development and promotion of tourism is primarily responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects that are complete as per existing scheme guidelines and sanctioned subject to availability of funds and utilization of funds released earlier.

India's rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage provides a huge potential for development of tourism and job creation. There is a great scope and need to develop tourist circuits on specific themes to attract the tourists, both domestic and international, having special interest of visiting such places. The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme with a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities. Twelve Circuits namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under this Scheme.

For the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites to tap the growth of domestic tourists driven by religious sentiments and to augment tourism infrastructure at places of pilgrimage to facilitate pilgrims/tourists Ministry of Tourism has launched Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). In the first phase, twelve cities namely Amritsar, Kedarnath, Ajmer, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Dwarka, Amravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni and Guwahati have been identified for infrastructure development.

(c) and (d): Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have sent following project proposals under Swadesh Darshan:-

i. Integrated Development of Adventure Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.
ii. Wild Life circuit - Madhya Pradesh.

(e): The number of projects and amounts sanctioned for projects relating to Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Fairs and Festivals, IT and Rural Tourism (RT) to various States/UTs during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given in Annexure I.

Projects sanctioned to various States/UTs under the plan schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given in Annexure II.
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