

an>

Title: Need to declare Tezpur in Assam as a tourist destination.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Thank you, Sir. I would like to say that Tezpur is a tourist destination of Assam in the North East India region. We have got Switzerland of the East, that is Arunachal Pradesh. We have got religious tourism, water tourism, eco tourism, medicinal plant tourism etc. There is the highest rain prone area in Cherrapunji. Shillong is known as the "Scotland of the East". Rukmini was married by Shri Krishna in Sadiya, a border area of Arunachal Pradesh. These places are neglected. Tourism has not been developed in these areas. Road connectivity is there but rail and air connectivity is very poor. As and when a man goes to tour those areas, he can visit all the eight States including Sikkim, Darjeeling, Shillong and Tawang. Tawang is the most beautiful place in India. It is better than any other tourist destination in India including the snow clad mountains of the Himalayan Range.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India as well as State Governments of North Eastern Region to take up the tourism cluster programme in the North Eastern Region.