

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*351
ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022**

PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BORDER AREAS

†*351 SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the scheme formulated by the Government to promote tourism in border areas;**
- (b) the number border areas in the country which have been developed for tourism during the last three years; and**
- (c) the plan to connect the villages near border areas on the tourist map?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*351 ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022 REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BORDER AREAS

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism promotes tourism in the country, including in the border areas, through its various Schemes. It provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure in the country, including in the Border States under its major Schemes of Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies. The financial assistance is given on the basis of submission of Detailed Project Reports, availability of funds and adherence to Scheme Guidelines. Further, the Ministry in association with the Ministry of Civil Aviation also provides financial assistance for the development of identified tourism routes under RCS UDAN 3. The details of the projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism, under the above Schemes, in the Border States, are given in the Annexure I.

Besides Ministry of Tourism have also undertaken initiatives to address challenges of border districts, tourism development, Institutional environment and security barriers in close coordination with State Tourism Departments and other stakeholders. Further, Ministry also promotes India in a holistic manner through various initiatives under its Schemes of “Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality” (DPPH) and “Overseas Promotion & Publicity including Market Development Assistance (OPMD)”, including in the border States. As part of its on-going activities; it regularly releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international markets, under the “Incredible India” brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India with the objective of increasing foreign tourist arrivals to the Country. The Ministry of Tourism also regularly promotes various tourism destinations and products through its website and social media promotions.

In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through the

India Tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and promoting tourism to the Country. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organizing Road shows, "Know India" seminars & workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food festivals; publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the Country under the Hospitality programme of the Ministry. Some of the major initiatives and efforts of Ministry of Tourism for promotion of tourism in the border States are given below:-

- i An amount of Rs. 1312 lakh was sanctioned to Border Security Force for the tourism related Infrastructural Development at Joint Check Post, Attari, Punjab.**
- ii An amount of Rs. 2803.05 lakh was sanctioned to Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for the construction of Jetties at 9 main points of embarkation/ disembarkation of River Cruise on National Waterways No 1 and 2 including Assam (Neamati, Pandu, Jogighopa and Biswanath Ghat).**
- iii In a separate initiative taken in coordination with PHDCCI, webinars have been organized highlighting the need to promote tourism education among the locals as well as related stakeholders in the respective border areas of the country.**
- iv Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM), Gulmarg under Ministry of Tourism has organized the Ice Skating event and National Level Ice Hockey Championship at Drass, Kargil in January 2021.**
- v Road connectivity and way side amenities - Ministry of Tourism had shared a list of 50 Tourism Destinations including Iconic Sites and UNESCO World Heritage Sites with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for improving road connectivity in the first phase. Where good road connectivity already exists, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways was requested to consider setting up of wayside amenities, prominent signages and beautification of the area, at a distance of 15-20 kms. on either side of the tourist destination. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has informed that out of the 50 destinations identified by Ministry of Tourism, 23 fall under the purview of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways/National Highway**

Authority of India, where work is in progress, three (03) fall under the Boarder Road Organisation (BRO).

- 1. Pangong Lake, Ladakh**
- 2. Kargil, Ladakh**
- 3. Rishikesh, Uttarakhand**

vi A study has also been conducted by the Ministry of Tourism on Potentials of Tourism Development in Pithoragarh District, Uttarakhand.

In addition to the above initiatives of Ministry of Tourism for promotion of tourism, in the border States, Ministry of External Affairs has intimated about other promotional efforts undertaken, inter-alia, which are given in Annexure– II.

ANNEXURE- I**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*351 ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022 PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BORDER AREAS**

Details of the Projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in the Border States under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

SI No.	State/UT	Circuit	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	North-East Circuit	2014-15	Development of Mega Circuit at Bhalukpong- Bomdila and Tawang	49.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	North East Circuit	2015-16	Development of Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha	96.72
3.	Assam	Wildlife Circuit	2015-16	Development of Manas- Probitora- Nameri- Kaziranga- Dibru- Saikhowa	94.68
4.	Assam	Heritage Circuit	2016-17	Development of Tezpur - Majuli - Sibsagar	90.98
5.	Bihar	Tirthankar circuit	2016-17	Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir- Pawapuri- Champapuri	37.19
6.	Bihar	Spiritual circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj - Dharmshala- Deoghar	44.76
7.	Bihar	Buddhist Circuit	2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	98.73
8.	Bihar	Rural Circuit	2017-18	Development of Gandhi Circuit: Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia- Turkaulia	44.65
9.	Bihar	Spiritual	2017-	Development of Mandar Hill	47.53

		Circuit	18	& Ang Pradesh	
10.	Gujarat	Heritage Circuit	2016-17	Development of Ahmedabad-Rajkot- Porbandar –Bardoli-Dandi	58.42
11.	Gujarat	Heritage Circuit	2016-17	Development of Vadnagar-Modhera	91.11
12.	Gujarat	Buddhist circuit	2017-18	Development of Junagadh-Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch-Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Himalayan Circuit in Himachal Pradesh	80.69
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Jammu-Srinagar-Pehalgam-Bhagwati Nagar-Anantnag-Salamabad Uri-Kargil-Leh	77.33
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama.	84.46
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities - Construction of Assets in lieu of those Destroyed in Floods in 2014 under PM Development Package	90.43
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev	90.85
18.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Anantnag-Kishwar-Pahalgam-Daksum-Ranjit Sagar Dam	87.44
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	Himalayan Circuit	2016-17	Development of Tourist Facilities at Gulmarg-Baramulla- Kupwara- Kargil - Leh	91.84
20.	Manipur	North-East	2015-16	Development of Tourist Circuit in Manipur: Imphal-	72.23

		Circuit		Khongjom	
21.	Manipur	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri Bijoy Govindajee Temple – Shri Gopinath Temple – Shri Bungshibodon Temple – Shri Kaina Temple	53.8
22.	Meghalaya	North East Circuit	2016-17	Development of Umium (Lake View), U Lum Sohpetbneng-Mawdiangdiang – Orchid Lake Resort	99.13
23.	Meghalaya	North East Circuit	2018-19	Development of West Khasi Hills (Nongkhlaw- KremTiro - Khudoi&Kohmang Falls – Khri River- Mawthadraishan, Shillong), Jaintia Hills (Krang Suri Falls- Shyrmang- looksi), Garo Hills (Nokrek Reserve, Katta Beel, Siju Caves)	84.97
24.	Mizoram	North East Circuit	2015-16	Integrated Development of Thenzawl & South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek.	92.26
25.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit	2016-17	Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit Aizawl - Rawpuichhip – Khawhphawp – Lengpui – Durtlang – Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee – Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield – Hmuifang	66.37
26.	Nagaland	Tribal Circuit	2015-16	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren- Kohima- Wokha	97.36
27.	Nagaland	Tribal circuit	2016-17	Development of Mokokchung–Tuensang-Mon	98.14
28.	Punjab	Heritage Circuit	2018-19	Development of Anandpur Sahib – Fatehgarh Sahib –	91.55

				Chamkaur Sahib – Ferozpur – Amritsar – Khatkar Kalan – Kalanour - Patiala	
29.	Rajasthan	Desert Circuit	2015-16	Development of Sambhar Lake Town and Other Destinations	50.01
30.	Rajasthan	Krishna Circuit	2016-17	Integrated Development of Govind Dev ji temple (Jaipur), Khatu Shyam Ji (Sikar) and Nathdwara (Rajsamand)	75.80
31.	Rajasthan	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Churu (Salasar Balaji)- Jaipur (Shri Samode Balaji, Ghat ke Balaji, Bandheke Balaji)- Alwar (Pandupole Hanumanji, Bharathari)- Viratnagar (Bijak, Jainnasiya, Ambika Temple)- Bharatpur (Kaman Region)- Dholpur (Muchkund) – Mehandipur Balaji- Chittorgarh (Sanwaliyaji)	93.9
32.	Rajasthan	Heritage Circuit	2017-18	Development of Rajsamand (Kumbhalgarh Fort)- Jaipur (Nahargarh Fort)- Alwar (BalaQuila)- Sawai Madhopur (Ranthambore Fort and Khandar Fort)- Jhalawar (Gagron Fort)- Chittorgarh (Chittorgarh Fort) Jaisalmer (JaisalmerFort) Hanumangarh (Kalibangan, Bhatner Fort and Gogamedi)- Jalore (Jalore Fort)- Udaipur (Pratap Gaurav Kendra)- Dholpur (Bagh-i-Nilofar and PuraniChawni)- Nagaur(Meera Bai Smarak)	72.49
33.	Sikkim	North East	2015-16	Development of Tourist Circuit linking Rangpo (entry)	98.05

		Circuit		– Rorathang- Aritar- Phadamchen- Nathang- Sherathang- Tsongmo- Gangtok-Phodong- Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang- Lachen- Thangu-Gurudongmer- Mangan- Gangtok- TuminLingee- Singtam (exit)	
34.	Sikkim	North East Circuit	2016-17	Development of Tourist Circuit Linking Singtam-Maka- Temi-BermoikTokel-Phongia- Namchi –Jorthang- Okharey- Sombaria- Daramdin- Jorethang- Melli (Exit)	95.32
35.	Tripura	North East Circuit	2015-16	Development of North East Circuit: Agartala - Sipahijala - Melaghar - Udaipur - Amarpur- Tirthamukh- Mandirghat– Dumboor- NarikelKunja- Gandachara– Ambassa	82.85
36.	Tripura	North East circuit	2018-19	Development of Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati- Bhunaneshwari- Matabari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chottakhola- Pilak- Avangchaarra	65.00
37.	Uttar Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit	2016-17	Development of Sravasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	99.97
38.	Uttar Pradesh	Ramayana Circuit	2016-17	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Shahjahanpur-Basti- Ahar- Aligarh-Kasgunj-Sarosi- Pratapgarh-Unnao-	71.91

				Kaushambi- Gorakpur- DoamrFiyagunj- Barabanki- Azamgarh	Mirzapur- Kairana- Bagpat-
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balia- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi	67.51
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Heritage Circuit	2016-17	Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- MarharDham (Sant Kabir Nagar)- ChauriChaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- Mavahar Sthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)	33.97
42.	Uttar Pradesh	Ramaya na Circuit	2017-18	Development of Ayodhya	127.21
43.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit	2018-19	Development of Jewar-Dadri- Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja- Banda	12.03
44.	Uttar Pradesh	Spiritual Circuit	2018-19	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyagunj)	15.76
45.	Uttarakhand	Eco Circuit	2015-16	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, Associated Tourism related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake & Surroundings	69.17
46.	Uttarakhand	Heritage circuit	2016-17	Development of Heritage Circuit in Kumaon Region – Katarmal –Jogeshwar-	76.32

				Bajnath-Devidhura	
47.	West Bengal	Coastal Circuit	2015-16	Development of Beach Circuit: Udaipur-Digha-Shankarpur-Tajpur-Mandarmani-Fraserganj-Bakhlai- Henry Island	67.99
48.	Uttar Pradesh and Bihar	Wayside Amenities	2018-19	Development of Wayside Amenities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at Varanasi-Gaya; Lucknow-Ayodhya- Lucknow; Gorakhpur-Kushinagar; Kushinagar-Gaya- Kushinagar in collaboration with MoRTH	15.07

Details of the Projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in the Border States under the PRASHAD Scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Project Nos	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1.	Development of Parasuram Kund, Lohit Distt.	2020-21	37.88
2	ASSAM	2.	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	2015-16	29.80
3	BIHAR	3.	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar	2014-15	4.27
		4.	Development at Patna Sahib	2015-16	41.54
4	GUJARAT	5.	Development of Dwarka	2016-17	13.08
		6.	Pilgrimage Amenities at	2016-17	45.36

			Somnath		
		7.	Development of Promenade at Somnath under PRASHAD Scheme	2018-19	47.12
		8.	Development of Pilgrim Plaza with Queue Management Complex at Somnath Gujarat	2021-22	49.97
5	JAMMU & KASHMIR	9.	Development at Hazratbal,	2016-17	40.46
6	MEGHALAYA	10.	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation in Meghalaya	2020-21	29.32
7	NAGALAND	11.	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland	2018-19	25.26
8	PUNJAB	12.	Development of KarunaSagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar	2015-16	6.40
		13.	Development of Chamkaur Sahib at Rupar, Punjab under PRASHAD Scheme	2021-22	31.57
9	RAJASTHAN	14.	Integrated Development of Pushkar / Ajmer	2015-16	32.64
10	SIKKIM	15.	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	2020-21	33.32
11	TRIPURA	16.	Development of Tripura Sundari	2020-21	37.84

			Temple, Udaipur		
12	UTTARAKHAND	17.	Integrated Development of Kedarnath	2015-16	34.77
		18.	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham (Uttarakhand) under PRASHAD Scheme	2018-19	39.24
		19.	Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities and Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham in Uttarakhand under PRASHAD Scheme	2021-22	54.36
13	UTTAR PRADESH	20.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	14.93
		21.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura	2014-15	9.36
		22.	Development of Varanasi –Phase –I	2015-16	20.40
		23.	Cruise Tourism in River Ganga, Varanasi	2017-18	10.72
		24.	Development of Varanasi Under Prashad Scheme – Phase II	2017-18	44.60
		25.	Development of Infrastructure	2018-19	39.74

			facilities at Govardhan, Mathura, UP		
14	WEST BENGAL	26.	Development of Belur	2016-17	30.03

List of Projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to Central Agencies under Assistance to Central Agencies Scheme

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	State	Name of the Projects	Agencies	Sanction Amount
2017-18	Punjab	Project for Infrastructural Development at JCP Attari	BSF	1312.00
2019-20	Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi & Allahabad-I, Allahabad-II), Bihar (Bhagalpur), West Bengal (Kolkata) & Assam (Neamati, Pandu, Jogighopa & Biswanathghat)	CFA for Development of Jetties at nine (09) main points of embarkation/disembarkation of River Cruise on National Water ways No. 1 & 2	IWAI	2803.05
2020-21	Mizoram	Development of Convention Centre and associated Infrastructure at Aizawl, Mizoram	WAPCOS	3994.75

ANNEXURE- II

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*351 ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022 PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BORDER AREAS

OTHER PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO SUPPLEMENT THE INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- **An international Buyer-Seller Meet, involving the Indian Chamber of Commerce Guwahati was organized in March 2021, which also included the Tourism Sector.**
- **Ministry of Civil Aviation, under UDAN, is working for operating flights between North-Eastern States and Mandalay and Yangon.**
- **Daily flight from September 2019 between Kolkata and Yangon has improved air connectivity.**
- **Ministry of External Affairs is currently undertaking development projects to increase road connectivity between Myanmar and the North Eastern States of Manipur and Mizoram namely, the India Myanmar Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Road project.**
- **Currently two passenger train services are operating between Bangladesh and India. Mitali express from Dhaka-Siliguri was inaugurated during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi to Dhaka in March 2021.**
- **Government had declubbed visa regime for Bangladeshis (from Pakistanis) facilitating inbound tourism.**
- **The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) once operationalised will facilitate seamless connectivity with Bangladesh.**
- **Maitree bridge over river Feni connecting Sabroom (Tripura) with Ramgarh (Bangladesh), inaugurated in 2021, of 1.9 km length built at a cost of 133 crores rupees on Feni River connects Tripura and Bangladesh.**
- **There are 3 operational bus routes connecting North East Region with Bangladesh, passing through Shillong, Guwahati and Agartala. (Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati, Dhaka-Agartala, Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala).**

- **With the inclusion of Sonamura-Daudkandi route in 2020, there are now 10 approved inland waterway routes between India and Bangladesh for movement of tourists.**
- **Border infrastructure such as Integrated Check Posts (ICP) and Land Immigration Check Posts (ImCPs) facilitate movement of people across border. There are 2 fully functional ICPs and 24 LCSs currently operational in the India-Bangladesh border.**
- **Currently, seven Border Haats along the India Bangladesh border, two in Tripura and five in Meghalaya are operational. Three have been made operational recently at Nalikata (India) – Saydabad (Bangladesh); Ryingku (India) – Bagan Bari (Bangladesh) and Bhola Ganj.**
- **To improve connectivity, to promote inbound tourism, rail link between Agartala (Tripura) and Akhaura (Bangladesh) is being developed.**
- **The Indo-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, linking Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand, running through the length of Myanmar to enable seamless flow of inbound tourism is being developed.**
- **Free Movement Regime within 16 kms of border is facilitated, to enable people from neighbouring countries to enhance ease of visit and shop in India, with due safeguards within the parameters of the Restricted Area Permit.**
- **Resident Ambassadors of neighbouring countries were taken to festivals in border areas like Nagaland to showcase the ethnic affinity and rich cultural heritage of the North-East.**
- **In December 2019, a Legislative delegation from Sagaing and Mandalay visited Imphal, where they met with local tourism agencies and exchanged ideas on promoting tourism.**
- **Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB) in association with Mission and India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce organized virtual trade, tourism and investment related event titled 'Look East Act East - Opportunities in North East India and neighbours, Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh' on 21 January 2021.**
