

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1297
ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

ECO-TOURISM PROJECTS

1297. SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of eco-tourism projects being carried out in and around the Amrabad Tiger Reserve;**
- (b) the funds allocated by the Government for the development of these projects;**
- (c) the number of jobs that will be created by these projects;**
- (d) whether there is any reservation in these jobs for the local tribal population and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to prevent any harm to the environment due to these projects and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including Telangana for various tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Further, Forest Department, Government of Telangana, has informed that the following community based Eco-Tourism Projects are established in and around Amrabad Tiger Reserve by the Telangana Forest Department:

1. **Wildlife Safari from Farhabad Gate to Farhabad View point; a distance of 16 km to and fro from the main road.**
2. **Octopus View point at Domalpenta; a distance of 200 mtrs from main road.**
3. **Environmental Education Centre with dioramas, models, posters, small auditorium with Audio visual equipment at Mannanur.**
4. **All Eco-tourism activities are Community Based services (CBET), such as:-**
 - a. **Operating twin bedded cottages- 10Nos at Mannanur.**
 - b. **Operating dormitory with 40 beds at Mannanur for the benefit of travellers who are stranded at the Mannanur check posts due to night hours restrictions.**
 - c. **Development of approach path to Mallelatheertham Water falls, 8 km from the main road.**
5. **Check posts at Mannanur and Domalpenta on either ends of the Tiger Reserve on the highway to check and regulate vehicular traffic. Vehicle movement is restricted between 9.00 PM and 6.00 AM every day.**
6. **Operating Souvenir Shop at Mannanur.**
7. **Operating Vanamayuri Guest House at Domalapenta**

(b): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.9162.10 Lakhs during 2015-16 for the project Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar District in Telangana State under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The destinations covered under the sanction are Somasila Reservoir, Singotam Reservoir, Akka Mahadevi Caves, Kadali Vanam, Srisailam, Farhabad, Mallelatheertham and Uma Maheshwari Temple.

Forest Department, Govt of Telangana, has informed that the funds allocated by the Govt, for Ecotourism projects are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)			
No.	Activity	Scheme	Amount allocated
i .	Modernization of Environmental Education Centre with displays and AV equipment.	CAMPA - BDC component	3.20

ii.	Facilities for Safari drive at Farhabad purchase of 2 vehicles.	Biodiversity Conservation Society of Telangana	12.55
iii.	Improvement of network of existing roads for safari drive.	CAMPA BDC component	15.00
iv.	Development of Octopus view point with entry gate and safety barrier.	CAMPA BDC component	6.50
v.	Development of approach path and steps to Mallelatheertham water falls including security gate etc.	CAMPA - BDC component	15.00

- Operation and maintenance of Eco-Tourism projects are self-financed out of the gate money, guide and safari services, occupation of cottages, dormitory, guest house etc.
- The income from Eco-tourism activities under CBET are deposited in the account of Tiger Conservation Foundation which is registered as a Society.

(c): Government of Telangana has informed that 130 Nos. of jobs, as per details given below, have been created either through direct or indirect employment under these projects:

(i)	Somasila Reservoir	30
(ii)	Singotam Reservoir	22
(iii)	Akka Mahadevi Caves	4
(iv)	Srisailam (Eegalapenta)	30
(v)	Farhabad	24
(vi)	Mallelatheertham	5
(vii)	Uma Maheshwari Temple	15
	Total	130

(d): Forest Department, Government of Telangana, informed that 80% of the Eco-Tourism based jobs are reserved for local Chenchu (A primitive Tribal group) community only. Presently 28 out of 34 families of the local Chenchus are working in community based Eco-tourism project (CBET).

(e): Forest Department, Government of Telangana, have taken the following steps to prevent any disturbance and damage to the environment:-

- **Plastic is totally prohibited in the entire Amrabad Tiger Reserve. Checking is done at the check posts.**
- **Entry to the tiger reserve along the Hyderabad-Srisailam highway is closed for vehicle movements between 2100hrs-0600 hrs (Next day).**
- **Tourists are not allowed to enter in the core area of Tiger Reserve other than tourism zone.**
- **Steps are taken to keep the Tiger Reserve clean by engaging garbage pickers and providing Eco-friendly dust bins along the National Highway from Mannanur to Domalapenta.**
