

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1318
ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

**FINANCIAL PACKAGE TO NER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL
HERITAGE**

**1318. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made by the Government towards encouraging tourism along with the revival of Historical monuments;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to extend some financial package to the North-Eastern States along with Assam and all other States in order to develop the historical heritage in the wake of Corona pandemic; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a): Revival of Historical monuments at the centre and within States/UTs rests with the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Governments/UTs, respectively. However, Ministry of Tourism under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan & PRASHAD provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments /Union Territory Administrations / Central Agencies for developing tourism amenities in and around historical monuments/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourists' friendly.

Ministry of Tourism has further launched the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project which is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and States/ Union Territory Governments for developing tourism amenities at heritage/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourists’ friendly in a planned and phased manner. Under the project, 27 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been awarded to 12 Monument Mitras for twenty-five (25) sites and two (2) Technological interventions across India.

In addition to the above, Ministry of Tourism has undertaken several initiatives/programmes/schemes for encouraging tourism in the country, as per details given below:

- i. Identified 19 Iconic Sites in the country for development by seeking convergence with other Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments /Urban Local Bodies**
- ii. Promoting India as a holistic tourism destination including its various tourism sites and products through Incredible India 2.0 Campaign.**
- iii. Revamp of Incredible India Website having information on tourism sites/destinations in different States/Union Territory Administrations.**
- iv. Launched Buddhist website - indiathelandofbuddha.in to promote and showcase the rich Buddhist Heritage in India.**

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Tourism at present does not have any proposal to extend financial package to the North-Eastern States along with Assam and all other States to develop the historical heritage in the wake of Corona pandemic. However, Ministry of Tourism has taken following steps to overcome the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic in the tourism sector in the country including those in the North Eastern States along with Assam and all other States:

- (i) Operational recommendations for hotels, restaurants, B&Bs/ Home-stays and Tourism Service Providers have been formulated and issued on 08.06.2020 to facilitate smooth resumption of business.**
- (ii) Validity of approval or certifications of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval / re-approval and classification / re-classification have expired / were likely to expire, has been extended up to 30th September 2020.**
- (iii) The Ministry has developed an initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry), for effective implementation of Guidelines/SOPs issued with reference to COVID-19 and beyond for safe operations of Hotels, Restaurants, B&Bs and other units.**
- (iv) Recognition of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators by the Ministry of Tourism has been extended automatically by six months. Those who have submitted applications for recognition by the Ministry have been given provisional recognition for six months, pending completion of required procedures.**
- (v) The guidelines for offering financial assistance to stakeholders under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme are in the process of revision with the objective of enhancing the scope and reach of the Scheme.**
- (vi) The Ministry has focussed on domestic tourism through a number of innovative steps such as promotion of products, festivals, cuisines etc., of the country on its social media handles. It is also organizing activities to promote the concept of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat. It has commissioned aerial photography of several cities during the lock down to promote these destinations. Similarly, the last mile connectivity is being targeted by viability gap funding through RCS-UDAN and discussions with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

(MoRTH) regarding improving road connectivity to important tourist destinations.

(vii) Ministry of Tourism has launched 'Dekho Apna Desh' web-series with a view to create awareness about tourist destinations in the country.
