

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2146
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021**

PROMOTION OF ECO-TOURISM IN ASSAM

2146. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to enhance eco-tourism in the country, especially in the State of Assam;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of training programs conducted in the field of eco-tourism during the last three years;**
- (d) the details of the targets with respect to eco-tourism and the expected revenue generation in the next 10 years; and**
- (e) the details of financial assistance extended to the State of Assam for eco-tourism during the last five years?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Development and Promotion of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism has identified Eco Tourism as one of the Niche Tourism Products for promotion and development in the country including Assam, with an objective to promote India as a year round destination and to attract tourists with specific interest for ensuring repeat visit for the unique products in which India has a comparative advantage vis-à-vis competing destinations. Ministry of Tourism has been laying stress on maintenance of environmental integrity, considering the importance of developing tourism in an ecologically sustainable manner. The Ministry of Tourism has evolved Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for major segments of the tourism industry,

namely accommodation, tour operators, beaches, backwaters, lakes and river sectors, etc. applicable for the entire country. The Criteria has been evolved after consultations with the various stakeholders. Ministry of Tourism has made it mandatory for the approved tourism service providers such as tour operators, adventure tour operators, travel agents etc. to follow the Code of Conduct for safe and sustainable Tourism.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, under its Swadesh Darshan scheme is developing thematic circuits in the country in planned and prioritized manner in order to develop tourism infrastructure at multiple destinations. Eco-tourism is one of the identified theme under which a total of 6 projects have been sanctioned for a total amount of Rs.483.74 Crore. The details of the projects sanctioned under Eco-Tourism theme in Swadesh Darshan scheme is annexed.

No projects have been sanctioned in the State of Assam under Swadesh Darshan scheme covering Eco-Tourism theme however the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects in the state of Assam:-

- (i) Development of Tezpur – Majauli – Sibsagar sanctioned in the year 2016-17 for Rs. 90.98 Crore under Heritage theme.**
- (ii) Development of Manas – Pobitora – Nameri – Khaziranga – Dibru – Saikhowa in the year 2015-16 for Rs. 94.68 Crore under Wildlife theme.**

Tourism Awareness/Sensitization programmes for existing service providers are conducted under this Ministry's Scheme of "Capacity Building for Service Providers". The primary objective of the programme is to eventually achieve an improved tourist specific service ambience and to further the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Each course is of two to six day duration and includes training of Naturalists and eco-guides. This programme is available to all areas across the country including far flung, hilly and backward areas.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2146 ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021 REGARDING PROMOTION OF ECO-TOURISM IN ASSAM****Details of the projects sanctioned under Eco-Tourism theme in Swadesh Darshan scheme**

S. No.	Name of State	Name of Circuit & Year	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned (Rupees in crore)
1.	Uttarakhand	Eco Circuit (2015-16)	Development of Circuit at Tehri-Chamba-Sarain around Tehri Lake.	69.17
2.	Telangana	Eco Circuit (2015-16)	Development of Circuit in Mahaboobnagar districts (Somasila, Singotam, Kadalaivanam, Akkamahadevi, Egalanpanta, Farahabad, Uma Maheshwaram, Mallelatheertham)	91.62
3.	Kerala	Eco Circuit (2015-16)	Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady.	76.55
4.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit (2016-17)	Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit at Aizawl -Rawpuichhip - Khawhphawp - Lengpui - Durtlang - Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee - Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield - Hmuifang	99.07

5.	Madhya Pradesh	Eco Circuit (2017-18)	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- BhedaGhat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	94.61
6.	Jharkhand	Eco Circuit (2018-19)	Development of Dalma- Chandil- Getalsud- BetlaNational park- Mirchaiya- Netarhat	52.72
Total				483.74
