

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1836
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

GLACIER SHRINKAGE EFFECT ON ECO-TOURISM

†1836. SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the effect of glacier shrinkage on eco-tourism and trekking activities in Uttarakhand;**
- (b) if so, the potential challenges before tourism industry in the said sector;**
- (c) whether climate friendly tourism measures are being taken to overcome the challenges; and**
- (d) the details of the special initiative being taken by the Government to sensitize the tourists with regard to climate change and their role conserving sensitive eco-system?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism has not conducted any study to assess the effect of glacier shrinkage on eco-tourism and trekking activities in Uttarakhand.

In order to provide impetus for development of Ecotourism in the country, including Uttarakhand, Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy for Development of Ecotourism.

Travel for LiFE (TFL) program was launched to create awareness about sustainable tourism and to nudge the tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices synchronous with nature. It encourages tourists to take simple actions that result in conservation of the environment, biodiversity, improvement in the local economy and preservation of the socio-cultural integrity of the local

communities. It aims to create mindful and deliberate utilization of resources by the stakeholders in the tourism value chain.

Ministry of Tourism identified Eco-Circuit as one of the themes for development of tourism infrastructure under Swadesh Darshan scheme. The Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. The Scheme encourages adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental sustainability, socio-cultural sustainability and economic sustainability. The central financial assistance is being extended according to guidelines and based on proposals/detailed project reports received from the States and UT Governments.

Under this scheme, Rural Tourism Cluster Experience project has been sanctioned at Gunji, Uttarakhand.
