

8. Guruvayur (Kerala)
9. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
10. Shirdi, Nanded and Jyotirbah (Maharashtra)
11. Jagannath Puri (Orissa)
12. Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib (Punjab)
13. Ajmer Shareef (Rajasthan)
14. Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu)
15. Badrinath and Haridwar
16. Barsana-Nandgaon-Gokul-Mathura-Brindavan-Gowardhan,
17. Sravasti/Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh)

The development projects will be taken up on the basis of proposals received from the respective State/Union Territory Governments within the funds available and no separate allocation has been made for the same.

#### **Incentives for Tourists in North-East**

1661. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) the measures taken by Government for development of tourism industry at the state and national level;

(b) the incentives to the tourists who want to visit the North-East States, and

(c) the amounts of funds for development of infrastructure of tourism in the North-East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) The measures taken by the Union Government for the Development of Tourism in the North East include the following;

(i) Atleast 10% of the funds provided to the Ministry of Tourism for Infrastructural Development will be utilised in North Eastern States.

(ii) A video film on tourist attractions of North East has been produced.

(iii) North Eastern States were given a free booth in the World's largest tourism fair ITB Berlin.

(iv) Financial assistance has been provided for organising various fairs and festivals in North East.

(v) North Eastern States have been designated as the theme States for Suraj Kund Craft Mela, 1998.

(vi) North Eastern States have been given special focus in the Marketing Conference of overseas offices of the Department held during the first week of June 1997 in Delhi. All our overseas offices have been giving publicity on North East.

(vii) North Eastern States are included in the Home page of Department of Tourism in INTRNET.

(viii) A new travel circuit Guwahati-Kaziranga Shillong-Tawang has been announced.

(b) There is no system of providing incentives by the Government to tourists to visit any place in the country.

(c) The details of funds provided for development of Tourism Infrastructure in North Eastern States during 97-98 were as given below.

State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	271.00
Assam	288.88
Manipur	186.11
Meghalaya	85.70
Mizoram	142.45
Nagaland	116.90
Tripura	126.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1217.72</b>

#### **Eco-Tourism Potentialities of N.E., Region**

1662. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have studied the eco-tourism potentialities of the North East region;

(b) if so, the measures taken up by Government, on a State-wise basis; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance so released by the Central Government to the States for development of infrastructure for tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The measures taken up by the Ministry of Tourism to develop tourism in the North East Region, include improvement of infrastructure facilities by extending financial assistance to State Government and providing wider publicity to tourism products of the region. The amount of financial assistance released to North Eastern States during 1997-98 is as given below:—

State	Amount Released (Rs. Lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	82.50
Assam	94.20
Manipur	56.35
Meghalaya	28.05
Mizoram	43.50
Nagaland	40.58
Tripura	40.16

Year	Number of Tourists			% decline as compared to 1989
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	
1989	490215	67762	557977	—
1993	—	8026	8026	99
1994	500	9314	9814	98
1995	322	8198	8520	98
1996	375	9592	9967	98
1997	7027	9111	16138	97

(d) The action plan to restore the industry includes restoration and renovation of tourist attractions and infrastructure facilities, revival of tourism industry through relief measures including waiving off of borrowings upto Rs. 50,000%.

#### Tourism Industry in J&K

1663. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism has suffered very much in Jammu and Kashmir during the nineties;

(b) if so, whether the degree of annual losses has since been ascertained;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof in respect of each year during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of action plan, if any to restore the industry to its earlier glory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) to (c) The tourist traffic to Kashmir Valley declined heavily during nineties. However, the pilgrim tourist traffic to Vaishnodevi has been increasing every year. The degree of losses suffered by the tourism industry in Kashmir Valley can be judged from the extent of decline in tourist traffic. The details are as given below:—

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, यह महिलाओं का स्वागत है।... (व्यवधान)....  
 [خیری محمد سلیم: سر۔ یہ میلاؤں کا  
 سوال ہے۔۔۔ "مداخلت"۔۔۔]

\*[Transliteration in Arabic Script.]