

**Funds for Tourism Projects in Assam**

1657. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary funds given by Government to the State of Assam including Autonomous Council of Hill Areas, for development of tourism projects during the last three years;

(b) the details of new proposals for development of tourism projects in the State during the current financial year and the next two years; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments on a year to year basis for specific projects submitted for assistance. The financial assistance released to the Government of Assam for implementation of tourism projects during the last three years was as given below:

Year	Amt. Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	39.00
1996-97	32.66
1997-98	94.20

(b) and (c) The projects for financial assistance during 1998-99 are not yet identified. The State Govt, is required to prepare the proposals as per the guidelines of the Ministry.

**Lifting of RAP in North-East Region**

1658. DR. ARUN. KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the number of foreign, tourists visiting the North-East region after lifting of the Restrictive Area Permit (RAP);

(b) if so, the number of tourists that visited the North-East region, year-wise since the RAP was lifted;

(c) number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited Majuli Island of Assam;

(d) details of the proposals of his Ministry in the pipeline for development of tourism in the North-East region;

(e) number of projects financed by the Department of Tourism alongwith year-wise allocation during the last five years in the region; and

(f) areas of North-East which are still restricted for visit by foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) and (b) According to the figures available from three States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura, there has been some increase in foreign tourist visits to these States after the lifting of the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) in 1995. The State-wise details are as given below:—

State	Foreign Tourst 1995	Arrivals 1996	1997
Assam	2575	5885	3506
Meghalaya	1172	1512	1071
Tripura*	96	192	806

\*Figures relates to the respective financial years.

(c) The foreign and domestic tourists who visited Majuli Island during 1997 were 117 and 121000 respectively.

(d) The projects for financial assistance to North Eastern States during 1998-99 have not yet been identified.

(e) The number of projects financed and amount sanctioned to the North Eastern States during the last five years were as given below: