

### **Demand to make Sikkim a world class tourist destination**

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, Sikkim has huge potential for tourism. The State is also called the mini Switzerland in view of its abundant natural and scenic beauty. The State is already experiencing a huge tourism footfall in the State but somehow the infrastructure in the State is not commensurate with the kind of potential of tourism available in the State. Besides the infrastructure, somehow the popularity of Sikkim tourism is also limited. The Government of Sikkim is doing its best to develop the infrastructure for tourism and popularise it. But the need for Central assistance is felt on this account. Recently, the Chief Minister of Sikkim has met with the Union Minister of Tourism and apprised her about the unexploited tourism potential of the State. He also briefed the Minister about Skywalk Project at the top of Bhaley Dunga in the State and requested her for an all-out support so that the State is able to install it successfully in stipulated time which will tremendously leverage tourism trade in the State. The Minister of Tourism in response assured the requisite help for the accelerated development of tourism in the State. I, therefore, request the Government to give support for the installation of Skywalk Project Bhaley Dunga and extend financial and technical help through Centrally-sponsored schemes and otherwise also for the development of the State of Sikkim as a world-class tourist destination.

### **Demand to sanction A special relief package for drought hit**

#### **State of Assam**

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): During this year, the people of Assam are facing an unprecedented weather. Some districts like Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Barpeta, Sivasagar, etc., are facing flood on one hand and other parts of almost every district are facing drought-like situation on the other.

The State of Assam, on 14th July 2009, declared about 14 districts as drought-affected districts, namely, Cachar, Dhuburi, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi-Anglong, North Cachar, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Naugaon, Sivsagar.

This year monsoon is about 70 per cent less than regular monsoon during the month of June-July in Assam. The water level in major reservoir across the State has gone down. Though the State Government has declared 14 districts as drought-affected, it is here to mention that almost all the districts are facing the drought-like situation.

The present situation has worsened the crisis of poor, mainly the farmers of the State, as they were already in deep crisis on account of unprecedented price hike of essential commodities. This drought-like situation affected not only the farmers but also the public in general.