

ment made by him during the inaugural ceremony of Rupsa Baripada train that a new train would be provided from Baripada to Bhubaneswar. Therefore, I request the Minister to kindly undertake the abovementioned works to fulfil the demand of the people.

**Need for taking effective measures by Government of India for Promotion and Development of Tourism in North Eastern Region**

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, I would like to raise a Special Mention regarding promotion and development of tourism in the North-Eastern Region, including the State of Sikkim.

Sir, Sikkim, with its enchanting landscape and innumerable monasteries, is a paradise for tourists. It is famous for its highest mountains, peaks lakes, forests, rivers, streams, etc., in the world. Sikkim has immense tourist potential for intrepid tourists. Apart from this, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura have also potential to develop into tourist centres.

Sir, tourism is a major industry in the North-Eastern Region for attracting domestic tourists and foreigners. There are many historical and ancient temples and shrines and important pilgrim sites of tourist interest. They should be identified and developed. Buddhist Monasteries and Stupas in Sikkim should also be developed. So, sufficient funds should be allocated for their development.

Sir, there has been very slow growth of private investment in the North-Eastern Region under liberalisation policy in comparison to the other States of the country. Sufficient incentives and facilities should be provided to the private sector.

For the development of the tourism sector in the North-Eastern Region, we need to develop our basic services like airlines, helicopters, communication networks, transport facilities, railway networks, etc. These essential services are linked with tourism development. For this, a comprehensive plan must be formulated and implemented. The North-Eastern Region also needs a lot of tourism guides and training institutions for the development of tourism.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to formulate a comprehensive and effective plan for the development, promotion and expansion of the tourism sector in the North-Eastern Region.