

The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme has sanctioned a project 'Development of Tribal Tourism Circuit in Jashpur - Kunkuri - Mainpat - Ambikapur - Maheshpur - Ratanpur - Kurdar - Sarodadadar - Gangrel - Kondagaon - Nathyanawagaon - Jagdalpur - Chitrakoot - Tirthgarh' in Chhattisgarh, for ₹ 99.94 crore during the year 2015-16.

Connecting Jageshwar Dham in Almora and Gangolihat in Pithoragarh with tourist circuits

†1418. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jageshwar Dham situated at Almora and the Mahakali Temple situated at Gangolihat in Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand are world-level religious places;

(b) if so, whether Government will contemplate to give priority to connect the said religious places with the tourist circuits of India to bring them at world-level; and

(c) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Connecting religious tourist circuits and development of its infrastructure is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State Government of Uttarakhand. The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to tourism projects submitted by them as per relevant scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and submission of utilization certificates for projects sanctioned earlier.

Following projects have been sanctioned to the Government of Uttarakhand for various works for ₹ 3333.76 lakh in Pithoragarh, Almora and Jageshwar for development of tourism infrastructure in last three years.

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of projects	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
Pithoragarh		
1.	Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure Circuit at Askot (including Tourist Reception/Information Center, Kiosks, Gender based wayside amenities, Rain Shelters, Solid Waste Management, Informatory Signages, etc.) District Pithoragarh (2013-14)	782.78

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
2.	Restoration of Tourist Rest Houses, Roof and Toilets at Kailash Mansarovar Pathway (Munsyari - Thal- Ralakot - Madkot), District Pithoragarh (2013-14)	458.85
3.	Dev. of River Rafting Center, Eco Tourism and Adventure Center at Jaul Jibi, Distt. Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand (2013-14)	499.54
Almora		
4.	Infrastructure Dev. at Kausani - Someshwar Tea Estate as an Eco-Tourism and Tea Tourism Circuit, Distt. Almora (2013-14)	799.84
Jageshwar		
5.	Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure Circuit of restoration and repair of Huts, rafting center, TRH, trek route, highway café, sulabh toilet at Bhikiyasain- Kausani - Jhakarsem - Kherna - Jageshwar - Kakrighat - Binsar - Padampuri, District Almora and Nainital in Uttarakhand (2013-14)	792.75
TOTAL		3333.76

Special tourism package for NER for foreign tourists

1419. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has developed any special tourism package for the North Eastern Region for the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the number of tourists who visited the North-Eastern Region for the last three years ending 31 March, 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant Scheme guidelines. Further, the following initiatives are taken by the Government to promote tourism in North Eastern Region:

(i) Provision of complimentary space to the North Eastern States in India Pavilions set up at major International Travel Fairs and Exhibitions.