

No project has been sanctioned by the Ministry for the State of Odisha under Spiritual Circuit theme of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Development of Deepor Beel in Assam

2687. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government received a proposal from Government of Assam who intends to develop Deepor Beel into an eco-tourism hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would consider extending all possible help to the State Government to develop Deepor Beel as an eco-tourism hub, particularly in view of tremendous potential of Assam in the development and promotion of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has not submitted any proposal for development of Deepor Beel into an Eco Tourism Hub to the Ministry of Tourism.

Ministry of Tourism is aware of the enormous potential for promotion and development of tourism in Assam. The Ministry under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan- Integrated development of theme based tourist circuits and PRASHAD- National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure at selected sites/circuits in the country. Eco Circuit has been identified as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

The details of projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism to Assam are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme/Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Swadesh Darshan 2015-16	Development of Wildlife Circuit: Manas- Probitora- Nameri- Kaziranga- Dibru- Saikhowa	95.67

1	2	3	4
2.	Swadesh Darshan 2016-17	Development of Heritage Circuit: Tezpur-Majuli-Sibsagar	98.35
3.	PRASHAD 2015-16	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	33.98

{c) The Central Government will examine and take appropriate decision to develop Deepor Beel into an Eco Tourism Hub as and when the proposal is received from the Government of Assam.

**Outperforming of economy by country's
travel and tourism sector**

2688. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is on track to build the world's fourth largest travel and tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's travel and tourism industry has outperformed its economy as a whole; and

(d) whether this sector has generated more than US\$ 230 billion in 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL) (a) and (b) { As per the report of India 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights released by World Travel and Tourism Council, India's rank in travel and tourism's total contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of long term annual percentage growth during 2019-2029 is the third.

(c) and (d) According to the reports of Tourism Satellite Account prepared by National Council of Applied and Economic Research for the reference year 2015-16 and subsequent estimates, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Tourism GDP (Direct + Indirect) during 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as follows:—

(₹ in crore)

Parameter	2015-16 (Revised)	2016-17 (Estimated)
GDP	13764040	15253714
Tourism GDP	701982.43	771918.96