

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN):

(a) and (b) Some of the important tourist spots in the NE region are as follows:

Assam:	Guwahati, Kaziranga National Park, Kamakhya Devi Temple (religious), Sibsagar.
Arunachal Pradesh:	Itanagar, Bomdila, Tawang Gompa (religious).
Manipur:	Imphal, War Cemetery, Loktak lake, Govindajee Temple (Religious).
Mizoram:	Aizawl, Tamdil lake, Champhai, Dampa Sanctuary
Meghalaya:	Shillong, Barapani, Umiam Lake, Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians (Religious).
Nagaland:	Kohima, War Cemetery, DImapur, Catholic Cathedral of Aradura hills (religious), Fakim Sanctuary.
Tripura:	Rock Cust at Unakoti and Pilak, MataTripureshwari Temple at Udaipur (Religious) Fourteen Goddess Temple (Religious).
Sikkim:	Gangtok, Rumtek Monastery (Religious), Khecheopah Lake.

(c) and (d) During the current year the following circuit has been identified for development. HUDCO has been engaged to make the detailed project report.

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Besides, it is planned to develop a major destination in each State. Financial assistance is provided to the States for fairs and festivals related to tourism.

(e) During the current year a provision of Rs. 22.5 crores has been made for North Eastern region including Sikkim for tourism development.

#### **Basic amenities at Temples in Tamil Nadu**

730. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavur, Madurai and Trichirappalli in Tamil Nadu are famous for ancient Temples;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to financially assist the State Government to provide better basic amenities in order to attract foreign tourists visiting our country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/ spots is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Govt, of India provides financial assistance for the identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the State of Tamil Nadu. During the financial year 2002-2003, Mahabalipuram has been identified for Destination Development.

**Tourist places in Orissa and H.P.**

731. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a drive to sell India as a tourist centre, if so, the details thereof and also the details of tourist places of Orissa and Himachal Pradesh proposed to be included in the project;

(b) the countries where this campaign would be kicked off, country-wise;

(c) whether it is also proposed to bring this subject in the concurrent list; and