

Implementation of Eco-Tourism Project in Majuli Island

1357. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the Eco-Tourism Resort Project in the Majuli Island of Assam;

(b) the programmes finalised by the Ministry for conservation of the cultural heritage of the Island, including cataloguing and preservation of manuscript and the artifacts with target set for each;

(c) whether a proposal for cataloguing and monofilamanet of those items was received from Majuli Island Protection And Development Council (MIRADC); and

(d) if so, status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Based on the proposal received from the State Government, Majuli Island has been identified for development under the Product, Infrastructure and Destination Development Scheme.

(b) to (d) Archaeological Survey of India do not have any protected monuments on the Majuli Island. However, some surveys have been conducted by Archaeological Survey of India through its Circle office at Guwahati. The Island is known for its intangible heritage and Satriya Dance form traditionally associated with Vaishnava religion, arts and culture founded by Vaishnava Saint Sri Sri Shanker Deva in the 15th Century AD. Tangible heritage is reported to be a Satra building with wooden architecture which house antiquities like coins, manuscript, copper plates, ritualistic implements with inscription and images of gods and goddesses.

Preservation of historical statues in West Bengal

1358. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that Archaeological Survey of India has suspended excavation at Gosanimari village, under Dinhata sub-division of Cooch Behar district, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the job will start again; and

(d) Government's proposal to preserve the historical statues/ sculptured relics of the seventh century?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The work of excavation at Rajpat Khalisa Gosanimari village, District Cooch Behar (West Bengal) has been closed in year 2000 after having achieved the objectives set therefor.

(d) No statues/sculptured relics of the 7th Century A.D. have been found during the excavation. However, all other excavated materials have been kept safely preserved.

Funds allocated for extension of tourist facilities in Assam

1359. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be allocated for the extension of tourist facilities in the State of Assam;

(b) whether any scheme for the same has been formulated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with them. During the Tenth Plan it has been decided to take up integrated development of tourist circuits and integrated development of major destinations.

(b) to (d) During the current financial year the following projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits Scheme, for the State of Assam:—

(i) Brahmaputra River Front Development at Guwahati—
Rs. 30 lakhs.

(ii) Development of Ethnic village at Bhalukpunj, Tezpur—
Rs. 45 lakhs.