

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM AND CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:104  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003  
UTILISATION OF FUNDS  
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

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

- (a) whether the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism and Culture has taken note of the inability to utilise the funds allocated for promotion of Tourism for 2002-2003 and development of tourist destinations in the North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred on development of tourist destinations in the North East, destination-wise, during the year, the funds sanctioned for each destination and the amount remained unutilized;
- (c) whether any steps have since been taken to ensure utilization of such funds and timely implementation of the projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) The Original Plan Budget of the Department of Tourism was Rs. 225.00 crores for the year 2002-03. In addition a sum of Rs.25 crores was provided as supplementary grant. 10% of the budget allocation was earmarked for the schemes/projects for NE region including Sikkim. Department of Tourism has fully utilized the allocated budget for this region. This amount was released to the various ongoing schemes/projects and also for the new schemes like North East Circuit and other identified destinations in NE states including Sikkim. The expenditure in the year 2002-2003 for NE region was Rs.25.76 crores.

(c) & (d) Plan Budget of Rs.325 crores has been approved for Department of Tourism for the year 2003-2004. Out of this, 10% budget i.e., Rs.32.50 crores has been earmarked for the implementation of various schemes in the NE Region. The process of identifying the Infrastructure, Promotion and Publicity projects with the State Governments has already been initiated. The projects sanctioned are being monitored by the Department of Tourism in order to expedite them. Also the State Governments have been advised to complete these projects expeditiously.