

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:788  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005  
TOURISM PROMOTION IN SOUTH ASIA  
Gohain Shri Rajen;Murmu Shri Hemlal

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

- (a) whether the Tourism Ministers of SAARC countries recently signed a declaration for joint efforts to promote tourism in South Asia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote tourism in each State; and
- (d) the total funds allocated and released by the Union Government to the State Governments during the current year?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The declaration signed on 29 July, 2005 at Colombo provides for enhancing cooperation in tourism amongst the SAARC countries. It also resolves to formulate strategies for a proactive joint campaign to promote Inter and Intra-regional tourism. It further recognizes the need to reap benefits from areas of culture and heritage, eco and adventure tourism and other tourism products in a sustainable manner by all the countries in the South Asian Region.

(c): Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds to the State Governments for development of tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments every year.

(d): So far, the total funds sanctioned during current financial year for development of tourism infrastructure projects in different states is Rs. 269.7 crore.