

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:406

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006

SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN NE STATES .

Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar;Rawale Shri Mohan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any special scheme to promote tourism in the North Eastern States;
- (b) If so, whether the "Inner Line Permit" is a hurdle in the development of tourism industry in the North East as published in the Hindustan dated May 15, 2006;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) The time by which the 'Inner Line Permit' is likely to be abolished; and
- (e) The extent of private sector participation therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): Development & Promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory. However, in order to give boost to tourism in the North Eastern States, Central Financial Assistance amount to Rs.12709.57 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India for tourism infrastructure development during the financial year 2005-06. In addition, Ministry of Tourism has produced collaterals and promoted and marketed North-East as a tourism destination through print and electronic media and also by enabling them to participate in international travel marts.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The 'Inner Line Permit' falls within the purview of the State Government and it is enforced or relaxed by them based on the prevalent security scenario, local needs and tourism trends. No time frame has been drawn out by the State Governments regarding abolishing this permit.

(e): Private sector participation is encouraged in promotion of different segments of tourism sector.