

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.42
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

SRISAILAM PILGRIMAGE

42 DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for promotion of religious tourism at Srisailam temple in Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government plans to start a pilgrimage circuit connecting temples of Andhra Pradesh such as Srisailam, Tirupathi, etc. if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the complete list of new pilgrimage centers planned and under consideration of the Government; and**
- (e) whether the Government has data regarding the improvement of tourism infrastructure at temples of Andhra Pradesh using central funds, if so, the details of funds sanctioned and utilized during the last five years?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism launched the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Scheme in 2014-15 with the objective of developing infrastructure at pre-identified religious and heritage sites across the country.

Under the Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the development of tourism infrastructure at these sites. The Ministry has sanctioned 46 projects at a cost of Rs.1621.14 crore under the PRASAD Scheme.

The Ministry has sanctioned 3 projects in Andhra Pradesh including 'Development of Srisailam Temple' at the cost of Rs.43.08 crore along with 'Development of Pilgrim Amenities at Amaravati' and 'Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam' at the cost of Rs.27.77 crore and Rs.54.04

crore respectively. Projects at Amaravati and Srisailam has been physically completed and Rs.13.69 crore has been released for the PRASHAD project in Simhachalam.

Two sites named 'Annaram, Kakinada District' and 'Vedagiri Lakshmi Narasimhawamy Temple, Nellore district' are identified for development under PRASHAD Scheme.

A total of 3 projects have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme: 'Development of Kakinada - Hope Island - Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary - Passarlapudi - Aduru - S. Yanam - Kotipally,' 'Development of Nellore - Pulikat Lake - Ubbilamadugu Water Falls - Nelapattu - Kothakoduru - Mypadu - Ramateertham - Iskapalli,' and 'Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam - Bavikonda - Bojjanakonda - Amravati - Anupu,' at the costs of Rs.67.83 crore, Rs.49.55 crore, and Rs.35.24 crore, respectively, in Andhra Pradesh. A total of Rs.146.98 crore has been utilized for the above three projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Additionally, 2 destinations, Gandikota and Araku-Lambasingi, have been identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. Among these, Araku-Lambasingi has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.29.87 crore under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. Additionally, Nagarjuna Sagar and Ahobilam are identified for development in Andhra Pradesh under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan.
