

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.191  
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

**PRASAD SCHEME IN KERALA**

**191 SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to consider the request for development of Achankovil, Aryankavu and Kulathupuzha Sree Dharma Sastha Temples under PRASAD Scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the importance of the said temples in connection with Sabarimala pilgrimage, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to conduct any study regarding the necessity of infrastructure and allied development in the said temples under PRASAD Scheme, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to include the said temples under the Scheme so as to ensure adequately facility for pilgrimage; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (f): 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 a project named Development of Guruvayur Temple at a cost of Rs.45.19 crore in Kerala, and the project has been physically completed.**

**A total of 5 projects have been sanctioned at a combined cost of Rs.312.47 crore in Kerala under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The Sabarimala Temple is covered under one of these projects named 'Development of Sabarimala-Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam,' which was sanctioned in the year 2016-17 at a cost of Rs.46.54 crore, and the project has been physically completed.**

**The selection of pilgrimage destinations/heritage sites under PRASHAD Scheme requires consideration of various parameters, which, inter-alia, includes the volume of pilgrim visits, the cultural, historical & heritage significance of the locations, the resident population of the destinations, the equitable representation to ensure nationwide development, availability of funds and various other related factors. The above consideration is done after having consultations with due State/UT Governments and receiving detailed proposals from them.**

**Regular impact assessment studies/third-party evaluations are conducted for the schemes under the Ministry of Tourism.**

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