

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1917
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
IDENTIFICATION OF NEW TOURIST PLACES
Kaswan Shri Rahul

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified certain new tourist places for their development in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Rajasthan; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to develop better infrastructure and new tourist places as well as to bring them on national and international maps particularly in Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): Ministry of Tourism has identified 50 circuits for development of tourism in various States/ UTs including Rajasthan.

Further in pursuance of Budget Announcement 2014-15 the Ministry of Tourism has formulated two plan schemes:

(i) SWADESH DARSHAN for integrated development of tourist circuits around specific themes. The five circuits initially identified under this scheme are: Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North-East Circuit; and

(ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths. 12 cities initially identified under the scheme are Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Vellankani.

(c): Development and promotion of tourism, including new tourist places, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects prioritized every year in consultation with the subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets, including the various tourism destinations and product of every State/Union Territory of the country.