

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1995

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS SITES FOR TOURISTS

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Chaudhary Shri P.P.;Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop and promote 'Spiritual Tourism' at holy places in the country under various schemes including Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds/special package allocated for the same;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to create a new Hindu/Sikh Pilgrimage Circuit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): In pursuance of the budget announcement of 2014-15, the Ministry of Tourism has launched two new plan schemes in the current financial year;

(i) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) with a initial provision of Rs.100.00 crore, to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths. Initially, Twelve Cities namely Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Vellankani have been identified for development; and

(ii) SWADESH DARSHAN for integrated development of tourist circuits around specific themes with a initial provision of Rs.500.00 crore. Under this scheme five circuits has been identified: Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North-East Circuit.