

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1047

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

TOURIST CIRCUITS UNDER SPECIAL THEMES

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to create 50 showpiece tourism circuits to attract tourists across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of proposed/pending and finalized Tourism Circuits, Tourism Parks, Special Themes and Rural Tourism Clusters identified by the Government in the country during the 12th Five Year Plan, State/UT-wise and category-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received requests/proposals from various States for inclusion of more such tourism circuits/parks and clusters; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the status of the proposals?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Ministry of Tourism has identified 50 circuits for development of tourism. The detailed list of the 50 circuits/destinations is given at Annexure-I. This has been shared with the States/ UTs. These circuits/destinations cover major and relevant tourist places and attractions and have a judicious mix of culture, heritage, spiritualism and ecotourism to give tourists a holistic perspective of the country.

Further in pursuance of Budget Announcement 2014-15 the Ministry of Tourism has formulated a plan scheme SWADESH DARSHAN for integrated development of tourist circuits around specific themes. The five circuits identified under this scheme are: Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North-East Circuit.

At present, Ministry of Tourism does not have any proposal for development of Tourism Parks and Rural Tourism Clusters.

The State/U.T. wise list of tourism projects and amount sanctioned for the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (till 31.12.2014) is given at Annexure-II.

The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. 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 them subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.