

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:987
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015
Special Package for Development of Tourism
Patel Shri Dilip;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any requests/proposals from various State Governments for grant of special packages for promotion of tourism in their States and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to provide any special packages for promotion of tourism in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Gujarat and Kerala; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects which are prioritized 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.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched following two new schemes pursuant to the Budget 2014-15 announcements.

- 1) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.
- 2) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.

Twelve theme based circuits i.e. North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under "Swadesh Darshan".

Under PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.

Presently the Ministry of Tourism has no proposal for grant of special packages from the States/UTs including the State of Gujarat and Kerala.
