

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:78

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015

Creation of various Tourist Circuits

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for the development of new tourist circuits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government in this regard during the last three years;
- (d) whether a decision to constitute advisory committee has been taken to properly operate these circuits; and
- (e) if so, the details of the process for the selection of members in the advisory committee?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme in the year 2014-15 with a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities. The Ministry has initially identified following twelve thematic circuits for development under the scheme: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit.

(c): The details of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are annexed.

(d) and (e): As per the scheme guidelines a National Steering Committee (NSC) has been constituted to steer the Mission objectives and vision of the scheme. The NSC is chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and has concerned Secretaries from 13 Ministries of the Government of India as members. The NSC enunciates the vision and chalk out the road map for the scheme, oversee all operations, steer, review and monitor overall performance of the scheme and reviews the proposed/ongoing projects periodically.
