

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:85

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015

Features of New Schemes

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started or planning to introduce any new schemes for the development of tourist places across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government during the last three years and the achievement made so far?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Tourism has launched following two new plan schemes pursuant to the Budget 2014-15 announcements:

1) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.

Twelve theme based circuits i.e. 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 have been identified for development under "Swadesh Darshan".

Under Swadesh Darshan, integrated development of theme based circuits has been taken up for holistic and inclusive development which can provide engaging and complete tourism experience to both domestic and foreign tourists. The Scheme envisage enhancement of tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the circuit destination.

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.

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

The PRASAD Scheme guidelines envisage the integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a planned, prioritized and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience to both domestic and foreign tourists.

(c): The list of number of projects and amount sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes during 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given in Annexure-I.

The list of number of projects, amount sanctioned and amount utilised Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Human Resource Development (HRD), Fairs and Festivals and Rural Tourism scheme during the last three years is given at Annexure -II.
