

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1108
ANSWERED ON 11.02.2020

DEVELOPMENT OF ICONIC TOURIST SITES IN INDIA

1108. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) whether work has started on the development of the seventeen iconic tourist sites in India which was announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2019;
- (b) if so, the details of the progress made in terms of physical as well as monetary expenditure on each site;
- (c) if not, when would the work start and the reasons for delay; and
- (d) when the Ministry will consider including Odisha's tourist sites among the iconic sites in India for development?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (d): Pursuant to the Budget Announcement of 2019-20 the Ministry has initiated the work on the development of the seventeen iconic tourist sites in India. Ministry has identified 17 sites for development as Iconic Tourism Sites namely Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta & Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort & Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath & Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar). The Ministry shall be developing the Iconic Tourist Sites in collaboration with the Central Ministries, State Governments and Local Bodies, in a holistic manner.

The Ministry of Tourism has appointed consultants for developing the Masterplan and shelf of projects for 17 sites. The consultants have submitted the draft reports and the Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance for holding the Expenditure Finance Committee meeting for approving the scheme. Work on the development of sites will commence after completion of all procedures and formalities

The selection of sites has been carried out on the basis of existing footfall, regional distribution, potential for development and ease of implementation. The Ministry envisages to develop destinations taken up for development under the scheme as benchmark tourism destinations and later replicate it at other destinations taking into account the learnings derived from its implementation.
