

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1110
ANSWERED ON 11.02.2020

RENOVATION AND BEAUTIFICATION OF VARANASI GHATS

1110. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

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

- (a) whether Government had sanctioned any tourism project for the renovation and beautification of Varanasi Ghats in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the funds sanctioned and utilisation reported thereunder;
- (c) whether Government has sanctioned more funds for fixing of these ghats;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including funds released so far; and
- (e) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Tourism under its ongoing schemes viz. “Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” and “Assistance to the Central Agencies” has approved following projects wherein components for development and beautification of Ghats at Varanasi are included:

- i. Development of Varanasi, Phase-I under PRASHAD Scheme - sanctioned in the year 2015 16 at the cost of Rs. 20.40 crore. The project includes following component for Ghats in Varanasi:
 - Ghat Development at Markandey Mahadev Temple at the cost of Rs.4.08 crore – Component is complete in all respect.
- ii. Development of Varanasi-Phase II under PRASHAD Scheme at the cost of Rs.44.60 crore. The project includes following components for Ghats in Varanasi:
 - Raj Ghat to Bridge (Beautification Work) at the cost of Rs.2.62 crore- Work is in progress
 - Lighting of 59 Ghats at the cost of Rs.18.46 crore- Component is complete in all respect.
 - Provision of Audio System at Ghats with the cost of Rs.4.00 crore - being implemented.
- iii. Illumination of Monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath under the scheme “Assistance to the Central Agencies” sanctioned in the year 2014-15 at the cost of Rs.5.12 crore. This scheme include a component viz. Man Mahal Ghat. The project and component has been completed successfully.
- iv. Illumination of three monuments in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh under the scheme “Assistance to the Central Agencies” sanctioned in the year 2017-18 at the cost of Rs.2.94 crores. This project includes one component for illumination of Ghats from Dashashwamedh Ghat to Darbanga Ghat at the cost of Rs. 1.75 crore. The project and the component is complete in all respect.
