

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3326  
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2019**

**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN ODISHA UNDER SWADESH  
DARSHAN SCHEME**

**3326. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that District Koraput/Rayagada in southern Odisha with rich tribal culture, lush valleys, wildlife, religious and historical heritage, provides huge prospective for development of tourism;**
- (b) whether the Government is planning to request the State Government to send the details for approvals under “Swadesh Darshan Scheme”;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether there is a possibility for the Government to take self-decision to announce the said districts as a tourist place and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the criterion for development of tourist place; and**
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to include some sites from Odisha in the list of 17 iconic sites as declared in the budget, if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism is aware of the tourism potential of the state of Odisha. Ministry had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2015 with the objective of developing thematic circuits in the country and has identified 15 circuits for development under the scheme. All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were advised to identify the projects**

**under the scheme and forward the same to the Ministry for consideration.**

**The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. Submission of project proposal by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and its sanctioning is a continuous process.**

**Ministry has sanctioned a project Development of Coastal Circuit: Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara in Odisha under the Swadesh Darshan scheme for Rs. 70.82 Crore in 2016-17.**

**(e): The Ministry has identified 17 sites in 12 clusters in the country 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 envisages to develop above destinations in the country as benchmark tourism destinations and later replicate it at other destinations taking into account the learnings derived from its implementation.**

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