

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†191
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021**

**PROPOSAL TO ADD NEW TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN
CHHATTISGARH**

†191. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SONI:

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

SHRI ARUN SAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism industry has been badly affected during Covid-19 period;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh to add new tourist destinations under tourist circuits and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the present status of the proposals received along with the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and**
- (e) whether the Government has allocated funds to various State Governments to develop new tourist destinations in their respective States during the last three years and if so, the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details thereof including Chhattisgarh?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The tourism industry has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Tourism has engaged National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in January, 2021 to conduct study on India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery. As per the results of the study:

- **Due to overall economic slowdown during 2020-21, tourism economy or tourism direct gross value added (TDGVA) saw a fall of 42.8 percent in Q1; 15.5 percent in Q2 and fall of 1.1 percent in Q3.**
- **Due to significant drop in tourist arrivals and hence tourism expenditure, during the pandemic, it is estimated that TDGVA plummeted by as much as 93.3 percent in Q1 of 2020-21 over its level in the same quarter of previous year. It picked up slightly to post a fall of 79.5 percent in Q2 and that of 64.3 percent in Q3.**
- **A significant number of jobs were lost in the tourism sector once the lockdown was implemented. 14.5 million Jobs during Q1, 5.2 million during Q2 and 1.8 million jobs during Q3 are expected to have been lost as compared to estimated 34.8 million jobs in the pre-pandemic period of 2019-20. (Direct jobs)**

Representations for financial relief received from industry stakeholders and State Governments have been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

The initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism and relief measures announced under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package are at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UTs. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under the schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' for development of tourism infrastructure in the country. Submission of project proposals by the State Government/UTs and its sanctioning is a continuous process. The projects are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. The details of the projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD scheme including those in Chhattisgarh are given at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†191 ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021 REGARDING PROPOSAL TO ADD NEW TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN CHHATTISGARH

- i. The following are the various fiscal and relief measures announced by the Government which are expected to benefit the Tourism Industry:**
- ii. The Government announced Atmanirbhar Bharat Package vide which Rs.3 lakh crore collateral free automatic loan has been made available for MSMEs. The loan will have 4-year tenure and 12-month moratorium.**
- iii. The Government waived off PF contribution for three months for organisations with less than 100 pax and 90% of their employees earn below Rs.15000.**
- iv. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat package, PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months**
- v. Deferment of TCS up to October 2020.**
- vi. Return filing deferred for three months with no penal interest for companies up to Rs.5 Crore, rest @ 9% penal interest.**
- vii. The Central government also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and GST Act for varying period in the wake of COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.**
- viii. The RBI extended moratorium on term loans till 31st December 2020.**
- ix. The Central Government has also given relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, Companies Act and GST Act for varying periods in the wake of Covid-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.**
- x. Suitable provision for funds for implementing the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) for services rendered in FY 2019-20 has now been made by the Ministry of Finance.**
- xi. The Government of India has launched Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to support eligible Micro,**

Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their business.

- xii. The scope of the scheme has been enlarged with introduction of ECLGS 3.0. to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism and Leisure & Sporting sectors. The scheme is valid till 31.03.2021.**
- xiii. The validity of ECLGS (ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0) have been extended upto 30.06.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore are issued. Last date of disbursement under the scheme has been extended to 30.09.2021.**
- xiv. On 16.06.2021, Hon'ble Finance Minister announced release of SEIS scrips for 2019-20.**
- xv. Financial support to more than 11,000 registered Tourist Guides / Travel and Tourism Stakeholders. Under the new Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Sectors, working capital / personal loans will be provided to people in tourism sector to discharge liabilities and restart after being impacted due to COVID-19. The scheme will cover 10,700 Regional Level Tourist Guides recognised by the Ministry of Tourism and Tourist Guides recognised by the State Governments and Travel and Tourism Stakeholders (TTS) recognized by the Ministry of Tourism. TTS's will be eligible to get a loan upto Rs. 10 lakh each while tourist guides can avail loan upto Rs 1 lakh each. There will be no processing charges, waiver of foreclosure / prepayment charges and no requirement of additional collateral. Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Tourism through NCGTC.**
- xvi. Free Tourist Visa to 5 Lakh: As per the announcement, once Visa issuance is restarted, the first 5 lakh Tourists Visas will be issued free of charge. The benefit of free of charge visa will be available only once per tourist during the issuance of the first 5 lakh tourist visas (free of charge visas). The scheme will be applicable till 31st March 2022 or till 5,00,000 visas are issued, whichever is earlier.**

- xvii. Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to release SEIS scrips on 16.06.2021. Earlier, several Industry stakeholders had flagged appeals to the government to release SEIS Scrips for 2019-20 and DGFT had put a detailed proposal for the allocation for SEIS for exports made during 2019-20. Taking all circumstances into account, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to the proposal of Department of Commerce for continuation of SEIS for 2019-20 with a financial allocation of Rs.2061 crores subject to the condition that the amount will be provided through Expenditure Budget following the procedure of providing a New Minor Head.**
- xviii. These above moves are expected to immensely help the stakeholders in the sector by providing them much required liquidity and gear up for the operations in near future. Similarly, it is also expected to provide much needed relief to the government approved tourist guides who have been affected by the ongoing slowdown in the sector due to the pandemic.**
- xix. Vide notification dated 17th October, 2017 of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, the following sub-categories were included under the category of “Social and Commercial Infrastructure” in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors: Tourism infrastructure viz. (i) three-star or higher category classified hotels located outside cities with population of more than 1 million, (ii) ropeways and cable cars.**
- xx. Further, vide notification dated 26th April 2021, “Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre” has been included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure Sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of “Social and Commercial Infrastructure”, with a footnote defining Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre.**
- xxi. The Ministry has been in regular touch with the industry stakeholders through several rounds of discussions and brainstorming sessions and examined their suggestions carefully. All such proposals have been taken up with the concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India. Similarly, the issues pertaining to the relief measures**

expected from the States/UTs have been pursued with them at the highest level.

- xxii. Operational Recommendations for safe resumption of business with easing of lockdown restrictions have been issued for various segments of the travel and hospitality industry and circulated amongst all stakeholders.**
- xxiii. With a view to prepare for a post-COVID 19 revival, the Ministry has formulated and issued detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene for hotels, restaurants, B&Bs/Home stays and Tourism Service Providers on 08.06.2020 to facilitate smooth resumption of business.**
- xxiv. An initiative called SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry) has been developed, for effective implementation of Guidelines/SOPs issued with reference to COVID-19 and beyond for safe operations of Hotels, restaurants, B&Bs and other units.**
- xxv. Further, the Ministry of Tourism has issued modified guidelines for Recognition of Tourism Service Providers dated 08.12.2020 which are effective from January, 2021. As per the modified guidelines, Category of Greenshoot / Start-up- Agencies is being introduced for the first time. This is in keeping with the policy of the Govt. of India for encouraging Start-Ups and will also further the cause of 'Atmanirbhar India'.**
- xxvi. With an aim to incentivize stakeholders in the Tourism industry, the Guidelines for the Scheme of Market Development Assistance (MDA) for providing financial support to stakeholders for the promotion of Domestic Tourism have been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders. Additional promotional activities have been incorporated including online promotions and the extent of financial assistance permissible has been enhanced.**
- xxvii. Recognising the fact that revival in the tourism sector will be largely spearheaded by Domestic tourism, the Ministry initiated arranging a series of webinars under the overall**

theme of Dekho Apna Desh. The objective is to generate awareness and at the same time sustain interest amongst stakeholders, students and the general public.

- xxviii. Validity of approval or certifications of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval/re-approval and classification/re-classification have expired/were likely to expire, has been extended upto 30th September, 2021.**
- xxix. Recognition of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators by the Ministry of Tourism has been extended automatically by six months. Those who have submitted applications for recognition by the Ministry have been given provisional recognition for six months, pending completion of required procedures.**
- xxx. The Guidelines of the Marketing Development Assistance Programme under the Overseas Promotion and Publicity Scheme has been modified to enhance the scope and reach of the scheme, so as to provide maximum benefits to the stakeholders in the tourism industry.**

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†191 ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021 REGARDING PROPOSAL TO ADD NEW TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN CHHATTISGARH

“National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)”

The total number of sites identified for development under the “National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” scheme at present, are 57 in 29 states/UTs. These sites are Amaravati, Srisailam and Simhachalam (Andhra Pradesh), Parasuram Kund (Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh), Kamakhya and Srikrishnaguru Sevashram, Nasatra (Assam), Patna and Gaya (Bihar), Balmeshwari Devi Temple (Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh), St. Bom Jesus Church (Goa), Dwarka, Somnath and Ambaji in Banaskantha (Gujarat), Panchkula for development of Gurudwara Nada Saheb and Maa Mansha Devi Temple (Haryana), Maa Chintpurni (Una, Himachal Pradesh), Hazratbal, Katra and Sundarbani in Rajauri district (Jammu & Kashmir), Deogarh and Parasnath (Jharkhand), Chamundeshwari Devi (Mysuru District, Karnataka), Guruvayoor, St. Thomas International Shrine, Cheraman Juma Mosque (Kerala), Chawkihang Vihara (Leh), Omkareshwar and Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Charanthala Durga Temple-Babedpara, Nartiang Shakti Temple, Nongsawlia Church- Sohra, Madan Air Nar Sacred Pool Near Jowai (Meghalaya), Changsil Kai- Sairang, Presbyterian Church- Dawrpui, Khawruhlian, Solomon's Temple, Kidron Valley and Serkawr (Mizoram), Cathedral of Kohima, Noksen Church, Mission Compound, Aizuto, Molungkimong and Vankhosung-Wokha (Nagaland), Puri (Odisha), Amritsar and Ropar for development of Chamkaur Sahib (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Yuksom (Sikkim), Kanchipuram, Vellankani and Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu), Jogulamba Devi Temple (Telangana) Tripura Sundari- Agartala (Tripura), Varanasi, and Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath, Kedarnath and Gangotri- Yamunotri (Uttarakhand) and Belur (West Bengal).

Since its launch in January 2015 and as on 02.07.2021 the Ministry has sanctioned 37 projects in 24 states with estimated expenditure of Rs. 1214.19 crore and a total amount of Rs. 675.89 crore has been released for these project from FY 2014-15. Out of these approved projects a number of projects have been completed as detailed in the table below:

Statement of projects (state wise)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Project Nos	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Approved cost	Amount Released
List of ongoing projects						
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	1.	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination**	2015-16	27.77	27.77
		2.	Development of Srisailam Temple**	2017-18	47.45	37.96
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	3.	Development of Parasuram Kund, Lohit Distt.	2020-21	37.88	05.01.21 Admn Sanction only.
3.	ASSAM	4.	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati**	2015-16	29.99	29.99
4.	BIHAR	5.	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar**	2014-15	4.27	2.91
		6.	Development at Patna Sahib**	2015-16	41.54	33.23
5.	CHHATTISGARH	7.	Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Rajnandgaon, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh	2020-21	43.33	12.16

6.	GUJARAT	8.	Development of Dwarka**	2016-17	13.08	10.46
		9.	Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath**	2016-17	45.36	45.36
		10.	Development of Promenade at Somnath under PRASHAD Scheme**	2018-19	47.12	44.76
7.	HARYANA	11.	Development of Nada Saheb Gurudwara and Mata Mansha Devi Temple in Panchkula District	2019-20	49.52	20.18
8.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	12.	Development at Hazratbal,	2016-17	40.46	32.37
9.	JHARKHAND	13.	Development of Baidyanathji Dham, Deoghar	2018-19	39.13	20.58
10.	KERALA	14.	Development at Guruvayur Temple**	2016-17	46.14	36.91
11.	MADHYA PRADESH	15.	Development of Omkareshwar	2017-18	44.83	35.87
		16.	Development of Amarkantak	2020-21	49.99	08.01.21 Admn Sanction only.
12.	MAHARASHTRA	17.	Development of Trimbakeshwar	2017-18	37.81	8.49
13.	MEGHALAYA	18.	Development of Pilgrimage	2020-21	29.32	6.53

			Facilitation in Meghalaya			
14.	NAGALAND	19.	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland	2018-19	25.26	13.49
15.	ODISHA	20.	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham - Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit	2014-15	50.00	10.00
16.	PUNJAB	21.	Development of KarunaSagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar **	2015-16	6.40	6.40
17.	RAJASTHAN	22.	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	2015-16	32.64	26.11
18.	SIKKIM	23.	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	2020-21	33.32	9.50
19.	TAMILNADU	24.	Development of Kanchipuram* *	2016-17	13.99	13.99
		25.	Development of Vellankani**	2016-17	4.86	4.86
20.	TELANGANA	26.	Development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Alampur	2020-21	36.73	5.14

21.	TRIPURA	27.	Development of Tripura Sundari Temple, Udaipur	2020-21	37.84	10.59
22.	UTTARAKHAND	28.	Integrated Development of Kedarnath**	2015-16	34.78	27.83
		29.	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham (Uttarakhand) under PRASHAD Scheme	2018-19	39.24	20.79
		30.	Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities and Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham in Uttarakhand under PRASHAD Scheme	2021-22	54.36	Sanctioned on 30.6.2021
23.	UTTAR PRADESH	31.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)**	2014-15	14.93	10.38
		32.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan,	2014-15	9.36	9.36

			Distt. Mathura**			
		33.	Development of Varanasi – Phase –I**	2015-16	20.40	16.32
		34.	Cruise Tourism in River Ganga, Varanasi	2017-18	10.72	8.57
		35.	Development of Varanasi Under Prashad Scheme – Phase II	2017-18	44.60	31.77
		36.	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan, Mathura, UP	2018-19	39.74	21.87
24.	WEST BENGAL	37.	Development of Belur	2016-17	30.03	23.39
			Total		1214.19	675.89

**** Physical execution of the project completed**

SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

State wise details of projects sanctioned under the scheme:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No	State/ UTs	Swadesh Darshan			Amount utilised
		No. of Projects	Amt. Sanctioned	Amount released	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	141.53	141.77	137.83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	146.49	124.05	110.51
3.	Assam	2	185.66	159.29	127.30
4.	Bihar	5	272.86	221.36	185.68
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	96.10	80.44	79.15
6.	Goa	2	197.00	185.38	170.47
7.	Gujarat	3	179.68	161.25	150.59
8.	Haryana	1	97.35	77.88	63.48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	80.69	59.85	35.18

10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	522.35	396.05	306.14
11.	Jharkhand	1	52.72	15.07	4.25
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	5	418.60	180.39	142.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4	350.67	315.26	303.36
15.	Maharashtra	2	73.07	40.43	27.88
16.	Manipur	2	126.03	104.36	98.13
17.	Meghalaya	2	184.1	138.89	106.30
18.	Mizoram	2	158.63	137.17	139.77
19.	Nagaland	2	195.50	175.95	155.61
20.	Odisha	1	70.82	52.96	50.3
21.	Punjab	1	91.55	41.45	17.89
22.	Rajasthan	4	310.63	229.85	220.16
23.	Sikkim	2	193.37	169.02	157.52
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	73.13	68.60	63.37
25.	Telangana	3	268.39	233.53	191.64
26.	Tripura	2	147.84	78.68	58.49
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8	490.71	414.60	352.92
28.	Uttarakhand	2	145.49	133.33	132.67
29.	West Bengal	1	85.39	68.31	62.67
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	27.57	13.46	8.45
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	3	186.59	125.93	105.91
	Wayside Amenities Uttar Pradesh and Bihar	1	17.93	12.29	11.05
Total		76	5588.44	4356.85	3777.06
