

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2536
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

BOOSTING OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

2536. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the view that good roads/infrastructure plays an important role in the boosting of tourism industry;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government knowing that tourism is the most neglected industry in the country and despite the fact that it hardly requires any capital; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Tourism is essentially a multi-sectoral activity requiring linkages and coordination with various Ministries, Departments and State Governments. Good infrastructure and connectivity is essential for providing enriching tourism experience to tourists. Ministry of Tourism is undertaking development of infrastructure at tourist sites/destinations/circuits. In addition, it is also giving due focus to improving connectivity to the tourist destinations to make them more accessible and provide a better tourism experience to the tourists visiting those sites.

Following steps have been taken to improve the connectivity to the tourist destinations located in different parts of the country: -

1. Ministry of Tourism had shared a list of 50 Tourism destinations including Iconic Sites and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the first phase and subsequently of 114 routes in the Second phase with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, State Government and Border Road organization for improving road connectivity.
2. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 46 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by Ministry of Civil Aviation under the RCS UDAN-3 Scheme. 29 of these routes have been operationalized till date. Ministry of Tourism is extending financial support for the 46 identified tourism routes on the pattern of viability gap funding under the Champion Services Sector Scheme. Under the scheme, it has reimbursed a total of Rs.68.87 Crore to Airport Authority of India out of which Rs.43.70 Crore (approx.) released in Financial Year 2020-21 and Rs.25.17 Crore released during the current Financial Year 2021-22 so far.
3. Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes is providing last mile connectivity to the tourist destinations/sites.

4. Ministry of Tourism is coordinating with the concerned line Ministries and also implementing projects for providing a better connectivity to the tourist destinations within the country through the following mechanism: -

- Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Tourism Sector (IMCCTS) to facilitate resolution of Inter-Ministerial/Departmental issues involving the development of tourism and better connectivity to tourist destinations within the country.
- A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of India to address various issues related to tourism as per the recommendations of the Sectoral Groups of Secretaries (SGoS) for Tourism Sectoral Plan. The Task Force comprises representatives from the Ministries of Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Culture, DONER, Environment & Forests and IRCTC, ASI.
