

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.624**  
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

**DEVELOPMENT OF DARJEELING HILLS AS INTERNATIONAL TOURIST  
DESTINATION**

624. SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to develop Darjeeling hills as international tourist destination owing to its unique natural beauty and Himalayan Railway declared as UNESCO World Heritage;
- (b) whether Government will consider Darjeeling hills within the Swadesh Darshan Scheme; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tourism under schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and Assistance to Central Agencies provides financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territories/Central Agencies for developing tourism infrastructure in the country including West Bengal. The projects under the above schemes are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Agencies and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier etc.

The Ministry of Tourism has now revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. As of now, no proposal for development of Darjeeling has been received under SD2.0

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