

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.706
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022**

UPGRADATION OF MAJOR TOURIST PLACES

706. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade all major tourist places with the new technology for the convenience of the tourists;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to make tourist places more attractive;**
- (d) the number of domestic and foreign tourist visits in the country during the years 2018 and 2022, especially for the State of UP;**
- (e) whether the Government has signed MoUs with other countries to make major tourist places especially UNESCO heritage sites at par with the international standard; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The illustrative/indicative list of components admissible under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRASHAD and Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Schemes is at Annexure-I.

(c): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps over the years to provide a better experience for tourists and to make the tourist destinations more attractive as per details given below:

- i. Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country.**

- ii. **National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations.**
- iii. **Adopt a Heritage Project for development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites.**
- iv. **24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.**
- v. **Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for nationals of 156 countries.**
- vi. **E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.**
- vii. **Conducting Programmes under the ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- viii. **New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.**
- ix. **Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%, those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India’s competitiveness as a tourism destination.**
- x. **On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 59 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the RCS UDAN Scheme, for which Ministry of Tourism extends financial support in form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 51 of these routes have been operationalized till date.**

(d): Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits in India during 2018 to 2021 are given below:

Year	Tourist Visits	
	Domestic	Foreign
2018	1853787719	28851130
2019	2321982663	31408666
2020	610216157	7171769
2021	677632981	1054642

Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits in Uttar Pradesh during 2018 to 2021 and till October 2022 are given below:

Year	Tourist Visits	
	Domestic	Foreign
2018	285079848	3780752
2019	535855162	4745181
2020	86122293	890932
2021	109708435	44737
Till October 2022 (P)	171371128	232485

P: Provisional

Source: Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department

(e) & (f): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India signs Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various countries for strengthening tourism cooperation and promoting tourism products of India in other countries. The important components of such Agreements/MoUs include the following:

- i) Exchange of information and data related to tourism.**
- ii) Cooperation between tourism stakeholders including hotels & Tour operators.**
- iii) Exchange of visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two-way tourism.**
- iv) Exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development.**
- v) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sector.**
- vi) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management.**
- vii) Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country.**

The details of MoUs/Agreements/Letter of Intent (LoI) signed with various countries for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of Tourism may be seen at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.706 ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022 REGARDING UPGRADATION OF MAJOR TOURIST PLACES.

SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME 2.0

i. Tourism Core Products

- (a) Constructions of Tourist Facilitation Centre, Tourist Interpretation Centre with ATMs/money exchange counters**
- (b) Restoration, conservation, illumination of monuments/heritage structures**
- (c) Construction of craft haats, bazaars, souvenir shops, cafeteria etc.**
- (d) Construction of nature trails, watchtowers, rain shelters and allied infrastructure**
- (e) Accommodation and stay facilities such as log huts, tourist lodges, tented accommodation, eco-retreats, etc.**

ii. Tourism Activities

- (a) Construction of Convention Centers/Golf Course/Aquamarine Parks/Amusement Parks/Theme Parks**
- (b) Construction of facilities to promote Adventure/Golf/Cruise/ Rural/ Mice and other such tourism activities**
- (c) Provision of equipment for above tourism activities**

iii. Performing Art Infra

- (a) Construction of Open-Air theatres or amphi-theaters**
- (b) Constructions of Cultural Centres**
- (c) Setting up of Sound & Light Show**

iv. Health, Sanitation and Safety

- (a) Toilets**
- (b) Solid Waste Management**
- (c) First Aid Centre (including Indian Medicines System)**
- (d) CCTV**

v. Connectivity, Wayside Amenities & Parking

- (a) Development/upgradation of passenger terminals for road, rail or water transport providing toilets, cloakroom facilities and waiting rooms**
- (b) Procurement of equipment for eco-friendly modes of tourist transport**
- (c) Improvement of road (last mile) connectivity leading to tourist sites/ destinations**
- (d) Development/ upgradation of helipads, heliports, airstrips, ropeways required for tourist in the identified circuits**
- (e) Parking facilities for two-wheelers, cars, buses, caravan vehicles**
- (f) Wayside amenities with emergency vehicle breakdown, repair and refuel facilities**
- (g) Informatory / directional signages**
- (h) Improvement in communication through telephone booths, mobile services and internet connectivity**

vi. General Site Development

- (a) General improvements such as earth filling, landscaping (including trees, shrubs), water fountains, fencing, lighting, pavements/ walkways/ pathways/ driveways, seating facilities/shelters, drinking water points, garbage bins, stormwater drainage, treatment facilities for sewerage / effluent**
- (b) External infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, electricity, and roads**
- (c) Shoreline development & rejuvenation of natural water bodies such as rivers, lakes, streams, riverfronts.**
- (d) Slum upgradation**
- (e) Wi-Fi**

vii. Sustainable Tourism

- (a) Use of clean energy sources for street lighting**
- (b) Renewable sources of energy for tourist infrastructure**
- (c) Environmental care and access to clean technology**
- (d) All structures developed should be universally accessible (disabled friendly)**

viii. Soft Intervention

- (a) Asset Mapping**
- (b) Promotion & Marketing**
- (c) Capacity Building**
- (d) Skill Development**
- (e) Knowledge Management**
- (f) Digital Technologies and Platforms**

PRASHAD SCHEME

Infrastructure Development

- **Toilet, cloak room facilities and waiting rooms at prominent destination points and if necessary at city entry points like bus stands, railway stations etc.**
- **Informatory/Directional signage (if possible these could be funded by the private sector). Guidelines should be formulated in the DPR toolkit to maintain design uniformity and enhancing aesthetics.**
- **Development/up-gradation of destination entry points viz. passenger terminals (of road, rail, and water transport). Basic conveniences like tourism Information/Interpretation Centers with ATMs/money exchange counters shall be provided at these entry points.**
- **Illumination of monuments/ pilgrimage structures.**
- **Provision of wayside amenities with emergency vehicle breakdown, repair facilities and infrastructure provision for stationing of caravan vehicles for tourists. The area and capacity shall be worked out as per the daily average footfall of the tourists to respective destinations.**
- **Parking facilities for two-wheelers, cars, buses and caravans.**
- **Improvement of road connectivity leading to prime destinations up to the last mile connectivity only.**
- **General improvements such as landscaping (includes trees and shrubs), water fountains, fencing, lighting, pavements/walkways/pathways/driveways, seating facilities/shelters, drinking water points, garbage bins, storm water drainage and treatment facilities for sewerage/effluent treatment are permissible within the pilgrimage footprint of the destination.**
- **First Aid Centers (Including Indian Medicines System).**

- **Improvement in communication through telephone booths, mobile services and internet connectivity, Wi-Fi hotspots.**
- **Construction of watch tower (for surveillance and security purpose), rain shelters (for pilgrims)**
- **Equipment for tourism activities such as sound and light shows to enhance the spiritual/heritage experience of the identified destinations**
- **Construction of open air theatres and amphitheatres**
- **Construction of craft haats /bazaars/ souvenir shops/cafeteria.**
- **Procurement of equipment for eco-friendly modes of tourist transport which should be plied on last mile connectivity to the prime assets and on pedestrianized roads to facilitate movement of old age, differently abled people and children (below 8 year)**
- **Shoreline development & rejuvenation of natural water bodies such as rivers, lakes, streams and river fronts of holy/ historic significance and shall be considered in consultation with M/o tourism and other allied ministries.**
- **Helipad, ropeways required for tourist in the identified destinations where other transportation connectivity is weak.**
- **Use of renewable sources of energy and access to clean technology for tourist infrastructure for environmental care.**
- **External infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, electricity and roads.**
- **Any other activity directly related to tourism and required for development of the identified pilgrimage sites/ destinations or integrated tourism development of heritage city.**

In addition to the above, following infrastructure components would be permissible only for integrated tourism development of heritage city:

- **Evaluation and up-gradation of civic infrastructure around heritage/cultural/tourist areas and façade improvement of surrounding areas with part funding mechanism to be worked out in discussion with local governments.**
- **Development of Heritage walks, street-scaping activities not limited to underground cabling, street furniture, storm water drainage and walkways/pathways.**
- **Support cultural events, fairs and festivals and associated infrastructure.**

- **Development of museums, interpretation centers and socio-cultural spaces.**
- **Restoration/ conservation of a historic structure/monument**
- **Revitalization of heritage areas/precincts & conservation of monuments etc.**
- **Adaptive re-use plans for eligible structures**

Capacity Development, Skill Development & Knowledge Management

- **Special courses to address the skill gaps identified by the state in the Detailed Project Report (DPR)**
- **Short duration skill development training program in association with other schemes of GOI.**
- **Emphasis on tapping the local potential and expertise in indigenous art and crafts.**
- **Documentation and preservation of the knowledge base in tourism for future use.**

Online Presence

A. GIS based interactive and intelligent portal development and mobile applications, providing:

- **Location based-services**
- **Location based-contents**
- **Booking facilities through a-Commerce application**
- **Linkages to applications of existing service providers**
- **Support dash-boards for tourists as well as operators**
- **Decision support reporting for the department**

B. Project Monitoring and Management System

- **Online Dashboard for project monitoring and management system**
- **Tracking project progress through online UC submissions**
- **Tracking procurements through e-procurement system**
- **Tracking completion of milestones**
- **Tracking issues relating to escalation and variances.**

C. Permission Based Knowledge Portal

- **Create a back-end digital library for content preservation.**

- **Push relevant research papers to appropriate institutions for future references.**

D. Data Analytics and Reporting

IEC Component

- **10% of the scheme allocation is earmarked for IEC components**

ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AGENCIES FOR TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- a. Improvement of the surroundings of the destination. This would include activities like landscaping, development of parks, fencing, compound wall etc.**
- b. Illumination of the Tourist destination and the area around and SEL/multimedia/ multidimensional Shows etc. including setting up of civic amenities such as toilets/ rest rooms, ticket counter, food courts, facilities for differently abled people/ children / senior citizens/ at site of project, battery operated carts etc including publicity material as may be required.**
- c. Re-conceptualization /up-gradation of existing SEL / multimedia shows commensurate with the requirement of Technological Innovative show can also be considered under this scheme after a five year of initial launch of project.**
- d. Construction of public buildings which are required to be demolished because of implementation of the Master Plan.**
- e. Illumination/Restoration/Refurbishment of the Monuments.**
- f. Signage and display boards showing Tourist Area Maps and documentation on places of interest at the locations.**
- g. Tourist Arrival Centers, Reception Centers, Interpretation Centers**
- h. Development of Cruise Terminals.**
- i. Construction of Convention Centres**

ANNEXURE-II**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (e) AND (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.706 ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022 REGARDING UPGRADATION OF MAJOR TOURIST PLACES.****Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding/Lol Signed with foreign countries by the Ministry of Tourism**

Sl. No	Name of the country with whom MoU/ Agreement/ Protocols signed	MoU/ Agreement/ Lol	Date of signature	Valid Till	Status
1.	Iraq	Protocol	25.10.1986	5+5 years period each	Valid
2.	Portugal	Agreement	29.07.1991	5+5 year periods	Valid
3.	Syria	Agreement	08.10.1991	5+5 year periods	Valid
4.	Israel	Agreement	18.05.1993	5+5 year periods	Valid
5.	Singapore	Agreement	24.01.1994	5+5 year periods	Valid
6.	Russia	Agreement	30.06.1994	5+5 year periods	Valid
7.	Iran	MoU	18.04.1995	No validity clause	Valid
8.	Mexico	Agreement	28.03.1996	5+5 year periods	Valid
9.	Cyprus	Agreement	07.11.1996	5+5 year periods	Valid
10.	Greece	Agreement	13.01.1998	5+5 year periods	Valid
11.	Indonesia	MoU	08.02.2000	5+5 years period each	Valid
12.	Italy	Agreement	26.06.2000	5+5 year periods	Valid
13.	Sri Lanka	MoU	23.01.2004	5+5 year	Valid

				periods	
14.	Brazil	Agreement	25.01.2004	5+5 year periods	Valid
15.	Serbia	MoU	02.11.2004	valid until either party terminates	Valid
16.	IBSA Tripartite Agreement	Agreement	15.10.2008	5+5 year periods	Valid
17.	Poland	Agreement	25.04.2009	5+5 year periods	Valid
18.	ASEAN	MoU	12.01.2012	12.01.2022 (5+5 years period)	Valid
19.	Mauritius	MoU	12.03.2013	5+5 year periods	Valid
20.	Japan	Memorandum	22.01.2014	5+5 year periods	Valid
21.	Nepal	MoU	25.11.2014	5+5 year periods	Valid
22.	France	LoI	09.04.2015	No validity clause	Valid
23.	China	Agreement	15.05.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
24.	Tanzania	MoU	19.06.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
25.	Uzbekistan	Agreement	01.10.2018	5+5 year periods	Valid
26.	Turkmenistan	MoU	11.07.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
27.	Egypt	MoU	24.08.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
28.	U.A.E.	MoU	03.09.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
29.	Cambodia	MoU	16.09.2015	5+5 year periods	Valid
30.	Maldives	MoU	10.04.2016	5+5 year periods	Valid
31.	Qatar	MoU	05.06.2016	5+5 year periods	Valid
32.	South Africa	MoU	08.07.2016	5+5 year	Valid

				periods	
33.	Kyrgyzstan	MoU	20.12.2016	5+5 year periods	Valid
34.	Oman	MoU	11.02.2018	5+5 years period	Valid
35.	Bulgaria	MoU	05.09.2018	5+5 year periods	Valid
36.	Malta	MoU	17.09.2018	5+5 years	Valid
37.	Romania	MoU	19.09.2018	Indefinite period	Valid
38.	Colombia	MoU	04.10.2018	5+5 yeas periods	Valid
39.	Korea	MOU	05.11.2018	5+5 year period	Valid
40.	Argentina	MoU	18.02.2019	5+5 year period	Valid
41.	Saudi Arabia	MoU	20.02.2019	5+1 years	Valid
42.	Croatia	MoU	26.03.2019	5+5 years period	Valid
43.	Paraguay	MoU	27.09.2019	5+5 years periods	Valid
44.	Philippines	MoU	18.10.2019	5+5 years periods	Valid
45.	Finland	MoU	21.11.2019	5 years	Valid
46.	Australia	MoU	11.02.2022	5 years	Valid
