

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3988
ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

SAPTHA MOKSHA PURI TOURIST CIRCUIT

3988 SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) whether Government is promoting the Saptha Moksha Puri (Seven Liberation destinations), viz., Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kashi (Varanasi), Kanchi Avantika (Ujjain), Puri (Odisha) and Dwaravati (Dwaraka, Gujarat) as a tourism circuit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the ranking of the above places in terms of tourists, both local and foreign, in the year 2022?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Ministry of Tourism, inter-alia, promotes tourist destinations of India, including the Saptha Moksha Puri (Seven Liberation destinations), viz., Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kashi (Varanasi), Kanchi Avantika (Ujjain), Puri (Odisha) and Dwaravati (Dwaraka, Gujarat), in a holistic manner. It undertakes promotional campaigns in domestic and global markets through electronic, print and digital media to promote the various tourist destinations and products of the country. Further promotions are also undertaken through the official web-site as well as through social media handles of the Ministry.

(b): Further, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' Scheme with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations in consultation with the respective State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs). Financial assistance is also provided under the Swadesh Darshan for the development of tourism infrastructure. The identification of sites is mainly the prerogative of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The projects are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to Scheme guidelines, utilization of funds released earlier, etc. The details of funds sanctioned for the integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations under the PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan Scheme are given in **Annexure**. The Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been revamped to SD 2.0 for development of sustainable and responsible tourist destinations and Dwarka has been selected for development under SD 2.0.

(c): The ranking of destinations is however not maintained by Ministry of Tourism.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3988 ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023 REGARDING SAPTHA MOKSHA PURI TOURIST CIRCUIT

DETAILS OF PROJECTS SANCTIONED BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM INCLUDING ON SAPTHA MOKSHA PURI UNDER PRASHAD SCHEME

(Rs. in crore)

Sr. No.	States/UTs	#	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Approved cost
1.	GUJARAT	1.	Development of Dwarka**	2016-17	13.08
		2.	Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath**	2016-17	45.36
		3.	Development of Promenade at Somnath under PRASHAD Scheme**	2018-19	47.12
		4.	Development of Pilgrim Plaza with Queue Management Complex at Somnath Gujarat	2021-22	49.97
		5.	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Ambaji Temple of Banaskantha, Gujarat	2022-23	50.00
2.	ODISHA	6.	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham – Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit##	2014-15	50.00
3.	TAMILNADU	7.	Development of Kanchipuram**	2016-17	13.99
		8.	Development of Vellankani**	2016-17	4.86
4.	UTTAR PRADESH	9.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)**	2014-15	10.98
		10.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura**	2014-15	9.36
		11.	Development of Varanasi –Phase – I**	2015-16	20.40
		12.	Cruise Tourism in River Ganga, Varanasi**	2017-18	9.02
		13.	Development of Varanasi Under Prashad Scheme – Phase II	2017-18	44.60
		14.	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan, Mathura, UP	2018-19	39.74

** Projects completed

DETAILS OF PROJECTS SANCTIONED BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM INCLUDING ON SAPTHA MOKSHA PURI UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	State	Circuit	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2017-18	Uttar Pradesh	Ramayana Circuit	Development of Ayodhya.	127.21	115.46
