

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1744
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN 12 SHAKTI PITHS OF WEST BENGAL

1744 SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are in all 12 Shakti Piths in West Bengal which are considered most sacred amongst Hindus;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry is considering creating a Parikrama Path connecting all the 12 Shakti Piths;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that pilgrims at present have no definite route to visit all 12 Shakti Piths in a systematic manner which is affecting tourism to the Shakti Piths uniformly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government(SG)/Union Territory Administration (UT), however, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) under its 'Swadesh Darshan', 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) and 'Assistance to Central Agencies' Schemes provides financial assistance to the SG/(UT)/Central Agencies (CA) for development of infrastructure at the tourist destinations including pilgrimage sites. The projects under the above mentioned schemes are identified for development in consultation with the concerned SG/UT/CA and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines, status of ongoing projects, utilization of funds released earlier etc.

Based on the proposals received, MoT has approved a project 'Development of Belur Math' under PRASHAD scheme and Development of Beach Circuit 'Udaipur- Digha-Shankarpur- Tajpur- Mandarmani- Fraserganj-Bakkhlai- Henry Island' under Swadesh Darshan in the state of West Bengal which covers development at pilgrimage sites also, however this Ministry is not in receipt of a proposal from SG of West Bengal for development of 12 Shakti Piths in West Bengal.
