

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2164
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

RAMAYANA CIRCUIT

2164 DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to include more destination in Ramayana Circuit in near future;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof in regard to Bihar State;**
- (c) the details of locations of Bihar which are supposed to be included in this initiative;**
- (d) whether some foreign destinations will also be the part of this initiative; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to include Thawe Peeth Temple of District Gopalganj under the Ramayana Circuit, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism through its ongoing central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)' and "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations in line with the scheme guidelines and in consultation with them. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned two projects in Ramayana Circuit theme, as per the details given below:-

(Amount in ₹ crore)

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Theme/Year of Sanction | Project Name | Amount Sanctioned |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | Uttar Pradesh | Ramayana Circuit/ 2016-17 | Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur | 69.45 |
| 2. | Uttar Pradesh | Ramayana Circuit / 2017-18 | Development of Ayodhya | 127.21 |

The Ministry under SD sanctioned 4 projects in Bihar, as per the details given below:-

(Amount in ₹ crore)

| Sl. No. | Theme/ Year of Sanction | Project Name | Amount Sanctioned |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | Tirthankar Circuit/ 2016-17 | Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir- Pawapuri- Champapuri | 33.96 |
| 2 | Spiritual Circuit/ 2016-17 | Development of Kanwaria Route | 44.76 |
| 3 | Buddhist Circuit/ 2016-17 | Development of Buddhist circuit-Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya | 95.18 |
| 4 | Rural Circuit 2017-18 | Development of Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia- Turkaulia | 44.27 |

Under its PRASHAD scheme, Ministry has sanctioned 02 Projects in the State of Bihar as per the details given below:-

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Year of Sanction | Project Name | Amount Sanctioned |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | 2015-16 | Development at Patna Sahib | 41.54 |
| 2. | 2014-15 | Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple | 3.63 |

The Ministry of Tourism has recently revamped the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations, following a destination & tourism-centric approach. In consultation with the States/UTs and in line with the scheme guidelines, the Ministry has accordingly identified 57 destinations in the country for development under SD 2.0 including ‘Gaya’ & ‘Nalanda’ in Bihar. Further, the Ministry of Tourism has also issued guidelines for ‘Challenge Based Destination Development’ (CBDD), a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, under which the Ministry of Tourism has identified 42 destinations for development including ‘Bhagalpur’ and ‘Saran District (Sonepur Fair)’ in the State of Bihar. There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Tourism to include foreign destinations under this initiative.
