

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†2226
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL SITES AND FORESTS

†2226 SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thousands of tourists visit district Purulia, West Bengal to experience the beauty and attraction of the natural forests of Ajodhya Matha and Kuilapal, Ajodhya Hills, Bagmundih based springs and tribal settlements, dams like Panchet, Murguma and Futiary, Heritage buildings, like Panchkot, Raj Palace, tracking range adorned with the glorious head;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop these historical sites and forests in order to attract more and more tourists;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism does not maintain the district wise tourist arrival data. However, the tourist visits data of West Bengal for 2022 and 2023 as under:

Year	Domestic Tourist Visits	Foreign Tourist Visits
2022	8,45,42,195	10,37,017
2023 (P)	14,56,69,292	27,06,942

P- Provisional

Source: State Tourism Department

(b) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) schemes complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations in consultation with them. The Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan scheme sanctioned 1 project, 'Development of Beach Circuit: Udaipur- Digha - Shankarpur- Tajpur- Mandarmani- Fraserganj-Bakhlai- Henry Island' in 2015-16 under coastal circuit theme for Rs.67.99 crore in the state of West Bengal which is physically complete.

Further the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs.30.03 crore in the financial year 2016-17 for "Development of Belur Math" under PRASHAD Scheme.

The Ministry of Tourism has recently revamped the Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations. As per the scheme guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations prepare State Perspective Plans analysing tourism potential of various destinations based on the specified parameters and thereafter the destinations are shortlisted by the Ministry of Tourism for development under the scheme. The Ministry of Tourism has not received the State Perspective Plan from the State Government of West Bengal under SD 2.0.
