

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.459**  
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

**DEVELOPMENT OF PILGRIMAGE AMENITIES AT  
SIMHACHALAM IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

459 SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved development of pilgrimage amenities at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam in Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of amount sanctioned, released and utilized so far; and
- (c) by when the developmental works are going to be completed?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism launched the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Scheme in 2014-15 with the objective of developing infrastructure at pre-identified religious and heritage sites across the country. Under the Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the development of tourism infrastructure at these sites. The Ministry has sanctioned 46 projects at a cost of Rs.1621.14 crore under the PRASAD Scheme and 29 sites are also identified for development under the PRASHAD Scheme.

The project "Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam" was sanctioned at a cost of Rs.54.04 crore in the year 2022-23. An amount of Rs.13.69 crore has been released so far for the project. The sanction order of the project stipulates 24 months for implementation of the project.

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