

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.119
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AT GARHMUKTESHWAR

119 SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to boost the tourism sector in the country on the banks of holy river Ganga particularly at Garhmukteshwar during Amrit Kaal;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure an increase in domestic as well as foreign tourists visiting India to such holy places;**
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilised for development of tourism for various ghats along River Ganga particularly for Garhmukteshwar, Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;**
- (e) whether there is a need to improve railway network and other infrastructures to strengthened tourism sector on various such places; and**
- (f) if so, the response of the Government in this regard and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the railway network and other infrastructures in such places?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (f): Ministry of Tourism promotes the tourism destinations of the country, including destinations on the bank of holy Ganga, in a holistic manner in the domestic and important global markets. The following initiatives have been taken by the Ministry to boost the tourism sector in the country and promote travel within and to the country, including travel to religious places: -

- **Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in various markets to increase India's share of the global tourism market including spiritual destinations of India. These objectives are met through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy and a synergized campaign in association with the Travel Trade, State Governments and Indian Missions overseas. The Government continuously engages with industry experts and other relevant stakeholders and take their suggestions and feedback for promotion of varied tourism products of India.**
- **Ministry of Tourism has launched the Incredible India Content Hub on the revamped Incredible India digital portal (www.incredibleindia.gov.in). The Incredible India Content Hub is a comprehensive digital repository of high-quality images, films, brochures and newsletters which can be easily accessed by the industry stakeholders (travel media, tour operators, travel agents) across the globe required to amplify Incredible India in all their marketing and promotional efforts. The revamped Incredible India Digital Portal is aimed to be a tourist centric, one-stop digital solution designed to enhance the travel experience for visitors to India.**
- **The Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan', National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' provides financial assistance to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations/ Central Agencies for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country. Projects sanctioned under these schemes also include spiritual destinations and components of development and beautification of Ghats.**
- **Ministry of Tourism has been providing financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for organising fairs/festivals and tourism related events. Some of the events for which assistance has been provided under the scheme include Ganga Mahotsav, Varanasi; Deepotsav, Ayodhya and Sonapur Fair, Bihar.**

- **Ministry is conducting Programmes under the ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP) Scheme to train and upgrade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- **To enhance the overall experience of tourists by making available a pool of local, trained professionals at tourist sites across the country, Ministry launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme – a Pan-India online learning program.**
- **Introduction of e-visa facility is one of the most significant steps taken to liberalize and simplify the Indian Visa regime. E-visa facility is presently available to nationals of 167 countries for entry through 31 designated international airports and 06 major seaports. E-Visa is presently available under nine sub-categories. Processing of e-visa is totally on the online platform.**

Details of projects sanctioned for development of Tourism Infrastructure in the State of Uttar Pradesh is at Annexure.

The proposals for projects at identified destinations are formulated by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Reviewing and sanctioning of the projects is an ongoing process and is done as per procedures and requirements stipulated in the scheme guidelines.

Indian Railways have taken various steps to improve the railway network and other infrastructures, which are outlined below:

- i) Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations, enhancing connectivity to tourist and cultural places etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands. As on 01.04.2024, out of 488 Railway Infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km costing approx. Rs.7.44 lakh crore, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned across Indian Railways with an expenditure of Rs.2.92 lakh crore. Augmenting railway infrastructures across Indian Railways is an ongoing and continuous process.**

- ii) The Ministry of Railways has recently launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. The Scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve amenities at stations, like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, platform surfacing and cover over platform, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station. So far, 1337 stations have been identified under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme over Indian Railways.**
- iii) Under the National Rail Plan (NRP), around 243 tourist destinations in India were identified. Out of these, 111 places are already connected with the existing rail network, 30 tourist places are within a distance of 10 kms from the nearest railway station and 30 are within a distance of 15 kms from the nearest railway station. The remaining 72 locations are primarily wildlife sanctuaries, beaches and areas located in hilly and mountainous terrain where providing rail connectivity is either not advisable or difficult.**

Further, with a view to provide enhanced amenities and facilities for tourists, projects for joint development of tourist amenities at 22 railway stations by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Tourism were sanctioned on cost sharing basis.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.119 ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AT GARHMUKTESHWAR RAISED BY SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR**

List of Projects sanctioned under various schemes of the Ministry for development of Tourism Infrastructure in the State of Uttar Pradesh

Swadesh Darshan Scheme**(₹ in Crore)**

S. No.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Utilised*
1.	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sravasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89	72.56	68.43
2.	Ramayana Circuit 2016-17	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45	64.09	56.03
3.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh-Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana- Baghpat-Shahjahanpur	71.91	69.63	69.63
4.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Bijnor- Meerut-Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda-Ghazipur- Salempur-Ghosi- Balia-Ambedkar Nagar-Aligarh- Fatehpur-	67.51	64.14	63.62

		Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi			
5.	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- Maghar Dham (Sant Kabir Nagar)- Chauri Chaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- Mahuar shaheed Sthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)	36.65	32.27	36.65
6.	Ramayana Circuit 2017-18	Development of Ayodhya	127.21	115.46	113.22
7.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Jewar-Dadri- Sikandrabad-Noida- Khurja-Banda	12.03	11.43	11.69
8.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyagunj)	18.30	18.12	18.12

*** Includes amount of authorization to CNA through TSA Model I for Central Sector Scheme.**

Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme

Sl. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)
1	Prayagraj	Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Exp	13.02
2	Naimisaranya	Vedic- wellness Experience	15.94

PRASHAD Scheme**(Rs. in Crore)**

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Approved Cost
1	Development of Varanasi –Phase –I	2015-16	18.73
2	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	10.98
3	Development of River Cruise Tourism at Varanasi	2017-18	9.02
4	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	2014-15	9.36
5	Development of Varanasi – Phase II	2017-18	44.60
6	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	2018-19	37.59

Scheme Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development**(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No	Sanction Date	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned
1	28.02.2015	Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath (Dhamekh Stupa in Sarnath Chaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath, Tomb of Lalkan in Sarnath and Man Mahal in Banaras).	5.12
2	21.12.2017	Illumination of three monuments in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 1. Dashashwamedh Ghat to Darbhanga Ghat (stretch of 300 m) 2. Tulsi Manas Mandir 3. Sarnath Museum	2.93
