

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1076
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024**

EVALUATION OF CARRYING CAPACITY OF TOURISM CENTRES

1076. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has established any scientific criteria or guidelines to evaluate the carrying capacity of each tourism centre and destination across the country to ensure sustainable tourism;**
- (b) if so, the details of these criteria and the methodology used for such evaluations, including any parameters related to environmental impact, infrastructure limits, and visitor safety;**
- (c) whether there is a process for regularly reviewing and updating these criteria in light of changes in visitor numbers, environmental conditions and local community needs; and**
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote tourism in Idukki and Wayanad, where livelihood of local population depends on tourism?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism has issued guidelines for its Swadesh Darshan scheme (SD2.0), which emphasis to undertake benchmarking and gap analysis with respect of multiple items including carrying capacity.

The Ministry of Tourism has also circulated a Template for Destination Master Plan, Strategy and Action Plan to the State Governments which includes guidance on assessment of carrying capacity of destination and managing carrying capacity. The said method guides to undertake assessment of physical carrying capacity of the destination in terms of number of visitors that can be allowed over a period of time in a delineated limit. It further advises to consider other natural and/or man-made factors affecting the tourism carrying capacity of destination based on significance and criticality of these

factors to the said destination. These factors may include variables such as heavy rainfall days, heavy snowfall days etc. Reviewing and updating criteria based on change in visitor number, environmental conditions and local community needs can be done as per destination requirement in order to ensure destination's ability to sustainably and safely accommodate visitors without degrading the environment, resources and to ensure long-term tourism viability.

(d): Ministry of Tourism under its Schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of undertaking development of tourism in different part of the country by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, subject to availability of funds, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), adherence to scheme guidelines, utilization of funds released earlier etc. Under the above mentioned schemes, Ministry of Tourism has already sanctioned the following projects in the State of Kerala:-

Swadesh Darshan scheme		
Circuit/ Year of sanction	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (₹ in Crore)
Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi- Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08
Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	46.54
Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Temple, Aranmula	78.08
Rural Circuit 2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35
Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram- Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania- Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42
PRASHAD		
2016-17	Development at Guruvayur Temple	45.19

Further, under the SD2.0, the Ministry has sanctioned a project ‘Kumarakom, and Kozhikode (Beypore)’ for ₹13.92 Crore.

The Ministry of Tourism has issued guidelines and templates for formulation of project proposals under ‘Challenge Based Destination Development’ a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 to the States and has identified ‘Varkala’ under the Culture & Heritage and ‘Thalassery’ under Spiritual Tourism Category in this scheme in Kerala.

Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of “Assistance to the Central Agencies” has sanctioned 6 projects in Kerala as per the details given below:-

Sanction Year	Project	Amount In ₹ Crore
2016-17	Development of a Walkway/Promenade on Willingdon Island, Cochin, Kerala	9.01
2016-17	Central Financial Assistance for upgrading of Births & Backup area of Ernakulam Wharf at Cochin Port Trust	21.41
2016-17	Project for Up-gradation of Golf Course at SAI Trivandrum Golf Club by the Sports Authority of India	24.65
2018-19	Developing infrastructure at Cochin Port Cruise Terminal	1.21
2018-19	Creation of additional tourism facilities at the Cochin north Trust Walkway at Cochin Port Trust	4.65
2019-20	CFA for Development of Additional infrastructure in the new Cochin Port Trust Terminal	10.30
