

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3744
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN ECO-TOURISM CENTERS

3744. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken specific measures to curb plastic pollution in eco-tourism centers across the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including policies, awareness campaigns, and enforcement mechanisms, if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement strict regulations to control plastic waste in these sensitive areas, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government is likely to consider introducing a "Plastic-Free Certification" for eco-tourism destinations to encourage sustainable tourism practices, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the criteria that is likely to be used for certification, and the manner in which the Government ensure strict compliance by tourism stakeholders?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Development and upkeep of tourist destinations, including curbing of pollution is undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. Implementation of legislations relating to prevention and control of environmental pollution is undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change along with its counterparts State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

Environmental Sustainability is a key pillar in the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism formulated by the Ministry. In line with the strategy, Travel for LiFE programme has been initiated to promote sustainable tourism in the country and to encourage tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable tourism practice.

The Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Ministry has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. The Scheme encourages adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental sustainability, socio-cultural sustainability and economic sustainability.

The Ministry of Tourism organised a thematic event on 'Towards a circular economy of plastics in tourism – the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative' in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on 19 June 2023 on the side lines of the fourth G20 Tourism Working Group at Goa. The event focused on encouraging engagement of tourism stakeholders to address plastic pollution through circular approaches across the tourism value chain.
