

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3836
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

PRASAD SCHEME IN WEST BENGAL

3836. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated, sanctioned, disbursed and utilized under the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, West Bengal, site and year-wise;**
- (b) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to ensure sustainability in the development of pilgrimage tourism under the aforementioned scheme;**
- (c) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to promote awareness of the sites developed under the aforementioned Scheme;**
- (d) the details of the steps being taken to enhance the connectivity and accessibility of pilgrimage sites under the PRASAD Scheme; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of the PRASAD Scheme to more pilgrimage destinations, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism under the “Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive” (PRASHAD) provides financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism infrastructure at identified pilgrimage destinations.

No proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Tourism under the PRASHAD Scheme in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, West Bengal.

However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project “Development of Belur Math” in West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 30.03 crore under the PRASHAD Scheme.

(b): Under the PRASHAD scheme infrastructure development is undertaken at the identified pilgrimage destinations in an inclusive, integrated, and sustainable manner that focuses on livelihoods, skills, cleanliness, security, accessibility, and service delivery.

During the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), the Ministry of Tourism emphasizes the State Governments/UT Administrations to prioritize clean energy sources, use of locally available materials for construction and procure eco-friendly transport options for last-mile connectivity. In addition, emphasis is placed on the inclusion of sustainable operation and maintenance plans.

(c): The Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing endeavour promotes various tourism destinations and products of the country including the sites developed under the PRASHAD Scheme through promotional activities, events, website, social media promotions, fairs and festivals, etc.

(d): The Ministry of Tourism under its PRASHAD Scheme has sanctioned universal accessibility features including ramps, railings, dedicated wheelchair-accessible facilities, provisions for e-vehicles and lifts, etc. to facilitate accessibility to pilgrimage sites.

In addition, to improve connectivity to the site, several components have been sanctioned including approach road development, road widening and beautification, development of destination entry points viz. passenger terminals.

(e): Receiving proposals from the State Governments/UT Administrations for financial assistance for tourism projects under the PRASHAD Scheme is a continuous process. The proposals received are examined with reference to the prescribed guidelines and financial assistance is extended for such projects subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions and availability of funds.
