

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3903
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN
ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS**

3903. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to promote sustainable tourism in ecologically sensitive areas and national parks;**
- (b) the number of eco-tourism projects sanctioned and operationalised in the year 2024-25; and**
- (c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that increased tourism does not lead to environmental degradation in protected areas?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including sustainable tourism is undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry complements the efforts of States/UTs by promoting various tourism products of the country, including sustainable tourism through various initiatives.

The Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan', 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism infrastructure development in the country. The details of projects sanctioned under the Eco Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme are given at Annexure.

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 practices.

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.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3903 ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025 REGARDING PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS RAISED BY SHRI BENNY BEHANAN AND SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT****Details of Projects sanctioned under Eco Circuit of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

S. No.	State/ UT	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)	Amount Released /Authorised * (₹ Crore)
1.	Jharkhand	Eco Circuit 2018-19	Development of Eco Tourism circuit: Dalma- Betla National park- Mirchaiya- Netarhat	30.44	28.04
2.	Kerala	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi- Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08	64.08
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Eco Circuit 2017-18	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- Bheda Ghat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	93.76	93.59
4.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit 2016-17	Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit Aizawl -Rawpuichhip – Khawhphawp – Lengpui – Chatlang- Sakawrhmutuaitlang - Muthee – Beratlawng -Tuirial Airfield – Hmuifang	66.37	53.09
5.	Telangana	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in	91.62	91.25

			Mahaboobnagar district		
6.	Uttarakhand	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, and Associated Tourism Related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake & Surroundings as New Destination-District Tehri	69.17	69.17

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