

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1247  
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025**

**LAPSES IN SDS SCHEME**

**1247. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:**

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) launched by the Government has very serious lapses in its formulation and execution during the period of 2014-2025;**
- (b) whether it is true that only 76 projects were sanctioned under identified thematic circuits in 31 States and Union Territories with the aim of developing theme based tourist routes during the period from 2014-2015 to 2018-2019;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government had not carried out feasibility studies before launching the said scheme;**
- (d) whether the Government has exceeded the sanctioned amount due to poor planning and approvals given without Detailed Project Reports and no formal mechanism for evaluation and approval; and**
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the Government could not complete the projects within the stipulated timeframe?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (e): The Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) was launched in 2014-15 post budget announcement with the objective of integrated development of theme-based tourism circuits. Under this scheme, a total of 76 projects have been sanctioned across the country for a total amount of ₹5290.33 Crore in various States/UTs. Project under the scheme were sanctioned based on the project proposal submitted by the concerned State Government/UT Administration/ Central Agency and its adherence to the scheme guidelines, availability of budget, inter-se priority supported by due approvals. As and when any request for deviation in the project cost is received from the side of State Government with due reasons, the same is considered as per the prescribed procedure.**

**The Ministry of Tourism further revamped the scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourism destinations in the country and has sanctioned 52 projects under SD2.0 for Rs. 2108.87 Crore. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism under the Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) - a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan scheme has also sanctioned 36 projects for Rs.648.10 Crore.**

**A feasibility study of the scheme was undertaken through National Productivity Council in 2019. Under the implementation phase of Swadesh Darshan scheme, project completion timelines varied on case to case basis depending on various factors such as Covid 19, seasonality, local issues etc.**

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