

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1422**  
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

**CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

1422 SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has evidence or reports indicating damage to cultural and natural heritage sites due to overcrowding and encroachment at major tourist destinations;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether any comprehensive policy has been formulated to protect the livelihoods and traditional knowledge of local communities engaged in the tourism sector, if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether national standards have been developed for crowd management, sanitation, and environmental sustainability at religious and faith-based tourist sites; and
- (e) whether Government has conducted "Carrying Capacity Assessments" for ecologically and culturally sensitive tourist locations and whether any corrective measures have been implemented based on such assessments?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): The development, promotion, management and maintenance of tourist sites, including cultural and natural heritage sites, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and initiated Travel for LiFE programme to promote sustainable tourism in the country and to encourage the tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable tourism practices.

The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme of the Ministry has been initiated with the objective of developing sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.

The Ministry is also promoting heritage tourism by providing financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities to provide an enriching tourism experience to the visitors.

(e): No such study has been undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism in recent years to assess the carrying capacity of ecologically and culturally sensitive tourist destinations.

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