

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3347
ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

SASCI INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF LESSER-KNOWN DESTINATIONS

3347 SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether Government has approved 40 tourism projects worth ₹3,295.76 crore under the SASCI initiative to promote lesser-known destinations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the objectives behind targeting non-traditional locations across 23 States;
- (c) the manner in which this initiative ensures balanced tourism growth, local employment generation and sustainable infrastructure development; and
- (d) the manner in which such targeted interventions are expected to uplift rural economies, empower local artisans and expand opportunities for community-based tourism and homestay enterprises?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Yes, with the aim to develop iconic tourist centres in the country, the Ministry of Tourism issued operational guidelines along with detailed project report template under 'Special Assistance to the States for Capital Investment (SASCI)' scheme. Accordingly, the State Governments submitted their project proposals on the online portal and 40 projects were sanctioned under the scheme for Rs.3295.76 Crore by Government of India with 100% central funding, the details of which is **annexed**.

SASCI scheme aims to develop end to end tourist experience that creates intended value while adopting the responsible tourism practices. The projects under the scheme were selected on challenge method and the parameters for the same covered multiple areas such as connectivity to the site, existing tourism eco-system, carrying capacity, availability of utilities, project impact & value envisaged which included expected increase in footfall within the prescribed carrying capacity, attract high value domestic and foreign tourists, increase tourism spends, creation of new employment opportunities, enabling sustainability and responsible tourism, private investment etc. As per the operational guidelines for SASCI scheme, while funding for developing the projects is done by the Government of India, operation and maintenance of the project shall be the responsibility of the respective State Government. Implementation of projects under the scheme is expected to boost local economy and creating opportunities for local artisans and community.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3347 ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025 REGARDING SASCI INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF LESSER-KNOWN DESTINATIONS RAISED BY SHRI SANJAY SETH**

List of Projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale:

(Amount In ₹ Crore)

S. No.	State	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2024-25	Enriching the fort and Gorge Experience in Gandikota	77.91
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2024-25	Akhanda Godavari- (Havelok Bridge & PushkarGhat) in Raja Mahendravaram,	94.44
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2024-25	Siang Adventure & Eco-Retreat in Pasighat	46.48
4.	Assam	2024-25	Assam State Zoo Cum Botanical Garden in Guwahati	97.12
5.	Assam	2024-25	Beautification of Rang Ghar in Sivasagar	94.76
6.	Bihar	2024-25	Development of Matsyagandha Lake in Saharsa	97.61
7.	Bihar	2024-25	Karamchat Eco-Tourism and Adventure Hub in Karamchat	49.51
8.	Chhattisgarh	2024-25	Development of Chitrotpala Film City in Raipur	95.79
9.	Chhattisgarh	2024-25	Development of Tribal & Cultural Convention Centre in Raipur	51.87
10.	Goa	2024-25	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum in Ponda	97.46
11.	Goa	2024-25	Townsquare in Porvorim	90.74
12.	Gujarat	2024-25	Ecotourism Destination at Kerly (Mokarsagar) in Porbandar	99.50
13.	Gujarat	2024-25	Tented City and Convention Centre in Dhordo	51.56
14.	Jharkhand	2024-25	Eco-Tourism Development of Tilaiyya'' in Koderma	34.87
15.	Karnataka	2024-25	Ecotourism & Cultural Hub at Roerich and Devika Rani Estate Tataguni in Bengaluru	99.17
16.	Karnataka	2024-25	Development of SavadattiYallammagudda in Belgavi	100.00
17.	Kerala	2024-25	Ashtamudi Biodiversity and Eco-recreational Hub in Kollam	59.71
18.	Kerala	2024-25	Global Gateway to Malabar's Cultural Crucible in Sargaalayaa	95.34
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2024-25	Orchha A Medieval Splendour in Orchha	99.92
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2024-25	International Convention Centre for MICE in Bhopal	99.38

21.	Maharashtra	2024-25	INS-Guldar Underwater Museum, Artificial Reef, and submarine Tourism in Sindhudurg	46.91
22.	Maharashtra	2024-25	Development of RAM-KAL PATH in Nashik	99.14
23.	Manipur	2024-25	Loktak Lake Experience in Loktak	89.48
24.	Meghalaya	2024-25	MICE Infrastructure in Mawkhanu	99.27
25.	Meghalaya	2024-25	Redevelopment of Umiam Lake in Shillong	99.27
26.	Odisha	2024-25	Development of Hirakund	99.90
27.	Odisha	2024-25	Development of Satkosia	99.99
28.	Punjab	2024-25	Development of Heritage Street as a tribute to Shaheed-e-Azam, SardarBhaghat Singh at Khatkar Kalan in SBS Nagar	53.45
29.	Rajasthan	2024-25	Development at Amber-Nahargarh and Surrounding Area in Jaipur	49.31
30.	Rajasthan	2024-25	Development at Jalmahal in Jaipur	96.61
31.	Sikkim	2024-25	Skywalk, Bhaleydhunga, Yangang in Namchi	97.37
32.	Sikkim	2024-25	Border Experience in Nathula	68.19
33.	Tamil Nadu	2024-25	Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mammallapuram	99.67
34.	Tamil Nadu	2024-25	Garden of Flowers in Devala	70.23
35.	Telangana	2024-25	Ramappa Region Sustainable Tourism Circuit in Ramappa	73.74
36.	Telangana	2024-25	Somasilla Wellness & Spiritual Retreat in Nallamala	68.10
37.	Tripura	2024-25	Shakti Peethas Park at Banduar in Gomati	97.70
38.	Uttar Pradesh	2024-25	Development of Bateshwar in District-Agra	74.05
39.	Uttar Pradesh	2024-25	Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti	80.24
40.	Uttarakhand	2024-25	Iconic City Rishikesh: Rafting Base Station in Rishikesh	100.00
Total				3295.76
