

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.626
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT
IN HERITAGE-RICH DISTRICTS**

626 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has identified tourism potential in underdeveloped yet heritage-rich districts such as Etawah and Auraiya for development under Swadesh Darshan or PRASHAD schemes;
- (b) the number and status of rural infrastructure projects sanctioned in these locations for tourism enhancement;
- (c) whether Government has created homestay models, cultural circuits, or livelihood generation plans linked to tourism; and
- (d) the quantum of rural employment generated and role of local women in such projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan(SD)', Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies (ACA) for Tourism Infrastructure Development' schemes complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Agencies subject to availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines, and submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the State Government etc. In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) has also provided financial assistance to the States for development of tourism projects. The Ministry of Tourism under the above-mentioned schemes has provided financial assistance to the State of Uttar Pradesh for development of tourism projects, details of which is annexed.

The projects are identified based on the project proposals submitted by the concerned State Governments, its examination on the prescribed parameters and as per the institutional framework detailed in the scheme guidelines.

Presently, there is no proposal before the Ministry of Tourism submitted by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, in line with the scheme guidelines and other instructions issued in this regard, for sanctioning projects in the districts of Etawah and Auraiya.

With the aim to promote tourism in tribal areas, the Ministry of Tourism has recently issued guidelines for 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' along with template for formulation of proposal by State Governments and UT Administrations.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.626 ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN HERITAGE-RICH DISTRICTS RAISED BY SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

List of projects sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Ministry of Tourism Schemes:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Sanctioned Amount (₹ in crore)
Swadesh Darshan			
1.	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	87.89
2.	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	Ramayana Circuit 2016-17	69.45
3.	Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh- Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana- Baghpat- Shahjahanpur	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	71.91
4.	Development of Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balia- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	67.51
5.	Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- MagharDham (SantKabir Nagar)- ChauriChaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- MahuarshaheedSthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	36.65
6.	Development of Ayodhya	Ramayana Circuit 2017-18	127.21
7.	Development of Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja- Banda	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	12.03
8.	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyaganj)	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	18.30
PRASHAD Scheme			
1.	Development of Varanasi –Phase –I	2015-16	18.73
2.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	10.98
3.	Development of River Cruise Tourism at Varanasi	2017-18	9.02
4.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	2014-15	9.36
5.	Development of Varanasi – Phase II	2017-18	44.60
6.	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	2018-19	37.59
Swadesh Darshan 2.0			

1.	“Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Exp”	2023-24	14.52
2.	Vedic- wellness Experience at Naimisaranya”	2023-24	17.80
Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)			
1.	Development of Cultural Landscape at Mahoba	2024-2025	24.98
Assistance to Central Agencies			
1.	Joint Development of Agra Cantt. Railway Station	2013-14	5.05
2.	Joint Development of Rai-Bareilly Railway Station	2013-14	4.44
3.	Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath (Dhamekh Stupa in Sarnath Chaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath, Tomb of Lalkan in Sarnath and Man Mahal in Banaras)	2014-15	5.12
4.	Illumination of three monuments in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 1. Dashashwamedh Ghat to Darbanga Ghat (stretch of 300 m) 2. Tulsi Manas Mandir 3. Sarnath Museum	2017-18	2.93
Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI)			
1.	Development of Bateshwar in District-Agra	2024-25	74.05
2.	Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti	2024-25	80.24
