

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4990
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026**

**RECOGNITION OF MUNROTHURUTHU AS
NATIONAL TOURISM DESTINATION**

4990.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala or any other authority for recognition and inclusion of Munrothuruthu in Kollam district as a nationally promoted tourism destination;**
- (b) whether Munrothuruthu has been considered under any Central schemes such as Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD or other thematic tourism circuits;**
- (c) the criteria adopted by the Government for inclusion of destinations under national tourism promotion programmes;**
- (d) whether any financial assistance has been sanctioned or is under consideration for infrastructure development, eco-tourism, backwater tourism or heritage tourism at Munrothuruthu; and**
- (e) the details of the steps proposed to promote Munrothuruthu as a sustainable tourism destination of national importance, considering its unique backwater ecosystem and biodiversity?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Development and promotion of tourism destinations is primarily done by the concerned State Government (SG)/UT Administration (UTA). However, Ministry of Tourism under its various schemes including 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development – CBDD' (an initiative under Swadesh Darshan scheme) and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' provides financial assistance for development of tourism

infrastructure and experiences in the country including in the state of Kerala, on receipt of the project proposals from State Governments/UT Administrations, in synergy with the scheme guidelines, Government directions, availability of funds, inter-se priority etc. The above-mentioned schemes are approved till March, 2026 and presently there is no proposal for consideration before the Ministry.

Details of the projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD and PRASHAD schemes in the state of Kerala is annexed.

Government of India in 2024-25 sanctioned the projects 'Ashtamudi Biodiversity and Eco-recreational Hub in Kollam' for Rs. 59.71 Crore and 'Global Gateway to Malabar's Cultural Crucible in Sargaalaya' for Rs. 95.34 Crore under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)- Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale'.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism holistically promotes various tourism destinations and products of the country including those in the state of Kerala through various promotional tools such as website, events, social media etc.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4990 ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026 REGARDING RECOGNITION OF MUNROTHURUTHU AS NATIONAL TOURISM DESTINATION RAISED BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH****Details of the projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD & PRASHAD schemes in the state of Kerala:**

Scheme	Circuit/Year of Sanction	Name of the project	Sanction Amount (₹ In Crore)
Swadesh Darshan	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi- Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08
	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	46.54
	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamula	78.08
	Rural Circuit 2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35
	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram- Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania- Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42
Swadesh Darshan 2.0	2024-25	Alappuzha: A Global Water Wonderland	93.18
	2024-25	Enhancement of Tourist Experience at Malampuzha Garden and Leisure Park	75.87
	2023-24	Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience	13.81
CBDD	2024-25	Varkala-Dakshin Kashi	25.00
	2024-25	Thalassery: The Spritual Nexus	25.00
PRASHAD	2016-17	Development at Guruvayur Temple	45.19
