

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2701
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

**INCLUSION OF TOURIST PLACES OF DARJEELING UNDER SWADESH
DARSHAN SCHEME**

2701 SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

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

- (a) whether any tourism project from Darjeeling has been included under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether the popular tourist places of Darjeeling are likely to be included under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in near future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Identification and development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration however the Ministry of Tourism under its 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies etc. for development of tourism infrastructure in the country subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier etc. A project 'Development of Beach Circuit: Udaipur- Digha- Shankarpur- Tajpur- Mandarmani- Fraserganj- Bakkhlai- Henry Island' was sanctioned in West Bengal for ₹67.99 crore in the year 2015-16 under Swadesh Darshan scheme. The project is physically complete however, the project does not include Darjeeling.

The Ministry of Tourism has now revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) for development of sustainable and responsible tourist destinations in the country. As of now, no proposal for development of Darjeeling has been received under SD2.0 from the State Government of West Bengal.
