

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3847
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6-04-2023**

FUNDS TO TEMPLE TRUSTS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS BODIES

3847. **Dr. V. SIVADASAN:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is providing or has provided any funds to the temple trusts in the country;**
- (b) if so, the funds allocated to various temple trusts in the country since 2018, the temple trust-wise, year wise and scheme-wise details thereof;**
- (c) Whether there has been any directive or conditionality about the need to promote Government programmes for the release of fund; and**
- (d) The funds allocated to worshipping centres of religious minorities since 2018, the trust-wise, year-wise and scheme-wise details thereof?**

**MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION**

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

ANSWER

- (a) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Culture administers two schemes by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities' and 'Seva Bhoj Yojana' under which financial assistance is provided to various religious organizations including Temple Trusts.**
- (b) 'Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities' is sub-component of 'Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure'. Therefore, no separate budgetary allocation is made under this Scheme component. However, the details of funds released under this scheme component is at Annexure-I. The budgetary allocation and funds released under Seva Bhoj Yojana is at Annexure-II.**
- (c) Ministry of Culture has issued guidelines under the above mentioned two schemes for release of funds to meet and promote the objectives of these schemes. The eligibility criteria for release of funds under these two schemes is at Annexure-III.**

- (d) There is no provision under the above mentioned two schemes for separate allocation of funds to religious minorities. However, under 'Seva Bhoj Yojana', funds have been released to Sikh Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) as per the following details:-

Sl. No.	Financial Years	Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	2019-2020	171.00
2.	2020-2021	162.65
3.	2021-2022	149.83
4.	2022-2023	140.44

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3847 due for answer on 06-04-2023

“FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ALLIED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES”

Sl. No.	Name of applicant organisation	Project Site	State	Released Amount
1.	Varanasi Smart City Limited (VSCL), Varanasi	Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi.	Uttar Pradesh	₹90,00,000/-
2.	Varanasi Smart City Limited (VSCL), Varanasi	Ghats of Varanasi.	Uttar Pradesh	₹90,00,000/-
3.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	₹81,00,000/-
4.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Kedarnath Trek, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	₹60,00,000/-
5.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Kedar Valley, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	₹54,00,000/-
6.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Swami Narayan Ghat, Rishikesh.	Uttarakhand	₹76,68,000/-
7.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh	Uttarakhand	₹81,00,000/-
8.	Department of Culture, Govt. of Uttarakhand	Yamunotri Temple, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	₹60,00,000/-
9.	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, J&K	Adhkuwari to Bhawan via Himkoti Marg.	Jammu & Kashmir	₹84,47,760/-
10.	Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board	i) Shamlaji Temple, National Highway 8, Samalaji. ii) Bahucharaji Temple, Bechraji Mehsana.	Gujarat	₹90,00,000/-
11.	Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board	i) Somnath, Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Gujarat. ii) Dwarka, Dev Bhoomi Dwarka Gujarat.	Gujarat	₹90,00,000/-
12.	Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board	i) Ambaji temple, Banashaktha, Gujarat; ii) Mahakali Temple, Panchmahal, Gujarat.	Gujarat	₹90,00,000/-
13.	Devasthan Management Committee, Kolhapur.	Shri Karveerwasini Temple	Maharashtra	₹80,08,195/-
14.	Temple Officer, Mata Chintpurni Temple, Una.	Mata Chintpurni Temple, Chintpurni, Una,	Himachal Pradesh	₹77,58,723/-
15.	Shri Jwalamukhi Temple Trust, Jwalamukhi.	Shri Jwalamukhi Temple, Jwalamukhi.	Himachal Pradesh	₹90,00,000/-

16.	Shri Chamunda Nandikeshwar Temple Trust	Shri Chamunda Nandikeshwar Temple	Himachal Pradesh	₹81,72,731/-
17.	Temple Trust Shri Naina Devi Ji, Distt.-Bilaspur.	Shri Naina Devi Ji, Distt.-Bilaspur	Himachal Pradesh	₹70,40,718/-
18.	Shri Mahamaya Balasundari Ji Temple Trust	Shri Mahamaya Balasundari Ji, Trilokpur.	Himachal Pradesh	₹67,13,745/-
19.	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, J&K	Banganga Darshani Deodi to Adhkuwari via Tarakote Marg].	Jammu & Kashmir	₹90,00,000/-
20.	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, J&K	Banganga Darshani Deodi to Sanjichhat via Old Track].	Jammu & Kashmir	₹90,00,000/-
21.	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, J&K	Sanjichhat to Bhawan & Gouri Bhawan to Sanjichhat via Bhairon Track].	Jammu & Kashmir	₹90,00,000/-
22.	Shri Sidh Baba Balak Nath Temple Trust, HP	Shri Sidh Baba Balak Nath Temple, Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	₹76,21,231/-
23	CEO, kurukshetra Development Board, Brahma Sarovar, kurukshetra, Haryana	Live audio video broadcasting of cultural & spiritual activities.	Haryana	₹54,00,000/-

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3847 due for answer on 06-04-2023

Details of funds allocated and disbursed under the 'Seva Bhoj Yojana':

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	Fund Allocated	Name of Organizations	Fund Disbursed
1.	2019-2020	400.00	Sikh GurudwaraParbandhak Committee (SGPC)	195.90
			TirumalaTirupatiDevasthanams, Tirupati,	
			Sri VenkateswaraAnnaprasadam Trust, Tirupati	
2.	2020-2021	203.00	Sikh GurudwaraParbandhak Committee (SGPC)	169.00
			Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana	
			Durgiana Temple, Amritsar	
3.	2021-2022	205.00	Sikh GurudwaraParbandhak Committee (SGPC)	154.00
			Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana	
			Durgiana Temple, Amritsar	
4.	2022-2023 (till date)	305.00	Sikh GurudwaraParbandhak Committee (SGPC)	143.00
			Dreams & Beauty Charitable Trust, Ludhiana	
			Durgiana Temple, Amritsar	

Annexure referred in reply to part (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 3847 due for answer on 06-04-2023

Eligibility Criteria for release of funds

(i) **Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities**:- Under the Scheme of Allied Cultural Activities, financial assistance is provided to all 'not-for-profit' organizations who are engaged at least for past three years in presenting the spectacle for allied cultural activities to give first hand experience of live performances on regular basis and during festivals in open/closed areas/spaces where large numbers of tourists/visitors come regularly and during major events/festivals the number of visitors swells to lakhs.

The organization is registered as a society under the Registration of Societies Act (XXI of 1860) or similar Acts, or as a Trust or as a Not-for-Profit Company, at least for a period of three years; and

The applicant organization will submit a recommendation letter in the prescribed format (Annexure-I) from the District Authority (District Magistrate/District Collector/Deputy Commissioner) or State Governments/Union Territories/District Authorities in this regard.

(ii) **Seva Bhoj Yojana**:- Under the Scheme of Seva Bhoj Yojana financial assistance is provided to in the form of reimbursement of CGST and Central Government's share of IGST paid by charitable/religious institutions like Gurudwaras, Temples, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Math, Monasteries etc.on purchase of specific raw food items viz. (i) Ghee (ii) Edible Oil (iii) Sugar/Burra/Jaggery (iv) Rice (v) Atta/Maida/Rava/Flour and (vi) Pulses for serving free food to public / devotees is re-imbrued.

These Charitable/Religious Institutions are required to distribute free food in the form of 'prasad', 'langar'/bhandara (community kitchen) to at least 5000 persons in a calendar month for at least past 3 years.
