

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2226
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

FORMAL INCLUSION OF PRIME TOURIST SITES OF ODISHA
IN THE LIST OF ICONIC SITES

2226 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha has received plans of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for development works at Konark Sun Temple, Chilika Lake, Bhitarkanika National Park, Similipal National Park and Diamond Triangle Buddhist circuit, but formal inclusion of all sites through declaration is still awaited; and
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India would clarify regarding the status of inclusion of all these sites into their iconic tourist sites list?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Development of tourist destinations is primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism complements these efforts by providing financial assistance to them under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' for holistic development of tourism destinations and has sanctioned following projects under these schemes in Odisha.

| Sr. No. | Name of Project /Sanction Year | Sanction Amount in (₹ crore) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Swadesh Darshan | | |
| 1 | Development of Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara under Coastal Circuit theme/2016-17 | 70.82 |
| PRASHAD | | |
| 2 | Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham – Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit/ 2014-15 | 50.00 |

The Ministry has revamped its 'Swadesh Darshan scheme' as 'Swadesh Darshan scheme 2.0' (SD2.0) for development of sustainable and responsible tourist destinations and in consultation with the respective State Government has identified 'Koraput' in Odisha for development under SD2.0 scheme. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has also identified 'Chausath Yogini Temple' Ranipur, Jharial in Balangir District in Odisha for development under PRASHAD scheme.
