

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.65**  
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**REJUVENATION OF RELIGIOUS SITES**

65 SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for rejuvenation of religious sites for boosting tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) projected boost in religious tourism due to the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.65 ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024 REGARDING REJUVENATION OF RELIGIOUS SITES BY SHRI. PABITRA MERGHERITA.**

(a) to (b): The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)' Scheme in 2015 for the development of tourism infrastructure and tourist amenities at identified pilgrimage destinations in the country. The nomenclature of the scheme has been changed from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in October 2017. A total of 46 projects have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.1631.93 Crore and 27 new sites has been identified for development under the PRASHAD Scheme.

The Ministry also launched 'Swadesh Darshan' Scheme in 2015 for the development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country. Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 15 themes were identified for development of tourist circuits. Projects have been sanctioned under the Buddhist Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Spiritual Circuit & Tirthankar Circuit to cater to the development of tourism infrastructure at religious/spiritual tourism destinations. A total of 23 projects have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.1375.43 Crore under the above-mentioned themes of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Additionally, 57 new destinations, including religious/spiritual destinations, have been identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0.

The components taken up for development under the above scheme includes basic amenities/facilities such as Pilgrim Facilitation Centres (PFCs), Food Courts/Cafeteria/Prashadam Counters, Parking, Illumination, Queue Management complexes, Interpretation Centres, Toilet Blocks, Parking facilities, Water/Sewage Treatment Plants, Solid Waste Management, etc. The details of projects sanctioned, and sites/destinations identified for development under PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan scheme are annexed.

In addition to the development of tourism infrastructure, MoT has also been promoting religious tourism. MoT has launched UTSAV portal which has details of over 1200 events and festivals and more than 50 live Darshans. The Incredible India website of Ministry of Tourism has details on religious sites and destinations in the country for promoting religious tourism.

(c): The Ministry had sanctioned the project 'Development of Ayodhya' under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2016-17, with a budget of Rs.127.21 Crore. The major components developed under the project includes Development of parking at Ram Katha Gallery , development works at Ayodhya Bus Stand, façade illumination at Ram ki Paidi, Ghat and parking development at Guptar Ghat, Ghat development at Laxman Kila Ghat, solar lighting, gazebos and street lighting in Ayodhya city, Tourist shelter at Panchkoshi Parikrama etc. As per the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, 27.80 lakh visitors have visited the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya from the day of Pran Pratishtha upto 05.02.2024.

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**ANNEXURE**

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.65 ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024 REGARDING REJUVENATION OF RELIGIOUS SITES BY SHRI PABITRA MERGHERITA

**1. Details of the projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme:**

**(Rs. in Crore)**

State/UT	S. No.	Project	Sanction Year	Approved Cost	Amount Released
Andhra Pradesh	1	Development of Pilgrim Amenities at Amaravati	2015-16	27.77	27.77
	2	Development of Srisailam Temple	2017-18	43.08	43.08
	3	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam	2022-23	54.04	13.69
Arunachal Pradesh	4	Development of Parshuram Kund	2020-21	37.88	21.95
Assam	5	Development of Pilgrimage amenities at Kamakhya Temple	2015-16	29.80	29.80
Bihar	6	Development at Patna Sahib	2015-16	41.54	33.23
	7	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple	2014-15	4.27	2.91
Chhattisgarh	8	Development of Pilgrimage amenities at Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple	2020-21	48.44	32.13
Gujarat	9	Development of Dwarka	2016-17	13.08	10.46
	10	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath	2016-17	45.36	45.36
	11	Development of Promenade at Somnath	2018-19	47.12	47.12
	12	Development of Pilgrim Plaza with Queue management complex at Somnath Temple	2021-22	49.97	0.00
	13	Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Ambaji Temple	2022-23	50.00	10.54
Haryana	14	Development of Mata Mansa Devi Temple and Nada Saheb Gurudwara	2019-20	48.53	34.68
Jammu and Kashmir	15	Development at Hazratbal Shrine	2016-17	40.46	34.30
Jharkhand	16	Development of Baba Baidya Nath Dham	2018-19	36.79	34.95
Karnataka	17	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple	2023-24	45.71	0.00
Kerala	18	Development at Guruvayur Temple	2016-17	45.19	45.19
Madhya Pradesh	19	Development of Amarkantak	2020-21	49.99	24.83
	20	Development of Omkareshwar	2017-18	43.93	43.93
Maharashtra	21	Development of Trimbakeshwar	2017-18	52.92	29.84
Meghalaya	22	Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Nongswalia Church, Nartiang Shakti Peeth, Aitnar Pool and Charantala Kali	2020-21	29.29	24.92

		Temple			
Mizoram	23	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism at Chite Vang, Zuangtai, Reiek and Aizawl	2022-23	44.89	6.52
Nagaland	24	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Molungkimong, Noksen Church, Aizuto, Wokha and Kohima	2018-19	25.26	21.33
	25	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Zunheboto	2022-23	18.18	5.45
Odisha	26	Infrastructure Development at Puri	2014-15	50.00	10.00
Punjab	27	Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar	2015-16	6.40	6.40
	28	Development of Chamkaur Sahib	2021-22	31.57	17.49
Rajasthan	29	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	2015-16	32.64	26.11
Sikkim	30	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	2020-21	33.32	28.31
Tamil Nadu	31	Development of Kanchipuram	2016-17	13.99	13.99
	32	Development of Velankanni	2016-17	4.86	4.86
Telangana	33	Development of Jogulamba Devi Temple	2020-21	38.90	13.76
	34	Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	2022-23	62.00	12.82
	35	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam	2022-23	41.38	8.43
Tripura	36	Development of Tripura Sundari Temple	2020-21	37.80	25.62
Uttar Pradesh	37	Development of Varanasi –Phase –I	2015-16	18.73	18.73
	38	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	10.98	10.98
	39	Development of River Cruise Tourism at Varanasi	2017-18	9.02	9.02
	40	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	2014-15	9.36	9.36
	41	Development of Varanasi – Phase II	2017-18	44.60	31.77
	42	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	2018-19	37.59	30.97
Uttarakhand	43	Integrated Development of Kedarnath	2015-16	34.77	34.77
	44	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation at Badrinath Ji Dham	2018-19	56.15	20.79
	45	Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities at Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham	2021-22	54.36	14.06
West Bengal	46	Development of Belur Math	2016-17	30.03	23.39
		<b>Total</b>		<b>1631.93</b>	<b>995.63</b>

**2. List of new sites identified for development under the PRASHAD Scheme:**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Project / Subject</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	Annavaram, Kakinada District
2	Andhra Pradesh	Vedagiri Lakshmi Narasimhawamy Temple, Nellore District
3	Bihar	Simariya Ghat, Begusarai District
4	Bihar	Aami Mandir, Saran District
5	Chhattisgarh	Kudargarh Temple, Surajpur District
6	Goa	Bom Jesus, Old Goa District
7	Gujarat	Shri Nilkanth Mahadev Temple, Sunak, Mahesana District
8	Himachal Pradesh	Maa Chintpurni Temple, Una District
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Utterbehni and Purmandal, Samba District
10	Karnataka	Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple, Saudatti, Belagavi District
11	Karnataka	Papnash Temple, Bidar District
12	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Peetmbra Peetha, Datia District
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shanidev Temple, Morena District
14	Maharashtra	Shre Kshetra Rajur, Ganpati Temple, Jalna District
15	Maharashtra	Tuljapur, Dharashiv District
16	Maharashtra	Shri Ghrushneshwar Shivalaya, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District
17	Mizoram	Vangchhia, Champhai District
18	Odisha	Chausath Yogini Temple, Ranipur, Jharial, Balangir District
19	Puducherry	Navagriha Temple- Sri Dharbaranyeswarar Temple & Spiritual Park, Karaikal District
20	Punjab	Durgyana Temple, Amritsar District
21	Rajasthan	Shri Karni Mata Mandir, Bikaner District
22	Rajasthan	Sun Temple, Budhahita, Kota District
23	Tamil Nadu	Navagriha Temple at 8 places in Tamil Nadu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sri Kailasanathar Temple, Thingalur, Thanjavur District</li> <li>• Guru Bhagvan Temple, Alangudi, Thanjavur District</li> <li>• Sri Naaganathar Temple, Thirunageshwaram, Thanjavur District</li> <li>• Sri Suryanaar Temple, Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Suriyanar Kovil, Thanjavur District</li> <li>• Sri Agneeswarar Temple, Kanjanur, Thanjavur District</li> <li>• Sri Vaitheeshwaran Temple, Vaitheeswaran Kovil, Mayiladuthurai District</li> <li>• Sri Naganatha Swamy Temple, Keelaperumpallam, Mayiladuthurai District</li> <li>• Suweethaaranyshwarar Temple, Thiruvankadu, Mayiladuthurai District</li> </ul>
24	Telangana	Goddess Yellamma Temple at Balkampet, Hyderabad District
25	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Kali Mandir established by Adiguru Shankaracharya, Chowk, Lucknow District
26	Uttar Pradesh	Pilgrimage sites of Braj, Mathura District
27	Uttarakhand	Timmersian MahaDev (Devnath), Chamoli District

**3. Details of the projects sanctioned under the Buddhist Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Spiritual Circuit & Tirthankar Circuit themes of Swadesh Darshan Scheme:**

(Rs. in Crore)

State/ UT	Sl. No.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Buddhist Circuit 2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam-Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda - Amravati- Anupu	35.24	28.19
Bihar	2.	Tirthankar Circuit 2016-17	Development of Vaishali-Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir-Pawapuri- Champapuri	33.96	30.04
	3.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj – Dharmshala- Deoghar	44.76	42.52
	4.	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18	93.22
	5.	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55	42.32
Gujarat	6.	Buddhist Circuit 2017-18	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch-Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68	22.28
Haryana	7.	Krishna Circuit 2016-17	Development of Tourism Infrastructures at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra	77.39	77.88
Kerala	8.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	47.74	28.67
	9.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Arnamura	78.08	73.77
	10.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram-Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania-Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42	42.01
Madhya Pradesh	11.	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar	74.02	72.75
Maharashtra	12.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Waki- Adasa-Dhapewada- Paradsingha-Telankhandi- Girad	53.96	32.04
Manipur	13.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri Bijoy	45.34	43.04

			Govindajee Temple – Shri Gopinath Temple – Shri Bungshibodon Temple – Shri Kaina Temple		
Puducherry	14.	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Karaikal, Yanam and Puducherry	34.96	30.94
Rajasthan	15.	Krishna Circuit 2016-17	Development of Govind Dev ji temple (Jaipur), Khatu Shyam Ji (Sikar) and Nathdwara (Rajsamand)	75.80	72.01
Rajasthan	16.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Spiritual Circuit– 'Development of Churu (Salasar Balaji)-Jaipur (Shri Samodke Balaji, Ghatke Balaji, Bandheke Balaji)- Viratnagar (Bijak, Jainnasiya, Ambika Temple)- Bharatpur (Kaman Region)- Dholpur (Muchkund) - Mehndipur Balaji- Chittorgarh (Sanwaliyaji)	87.05	72.23
Uttar Pradesh	17.	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89	72.56
	18.	Ramayana Circuit 2016-17	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45	64.09
	19.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh- Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana- Baghpat-Shahjahanpur	71.91	68.32
	20.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Bijnor-Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur-Salempur- Ghosi- Balia-Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh-Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba-Sonbhadra- Chandauli-Mishrikh- Bhadohi	67.51	64.14
	21.	Ramayana Circuit 2017-18	Development of Ayodhya	127.21	115.46
	22.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja-Banda	12.03	11.43



	23.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyagunj)	18.30	16.81
<b>Total</b>				<b>1375.43</b>	<b>1216.72</b>

**List of Destinations identified under Swadesh Darshan 2.0**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>States/Union Territory</b>	<b>Destinations Selected/Notified</b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Gandikota, Araku-Lambasingi
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nacho, Mechuka
3.	Assam	Jorhat, Kokrajhar
4.	Bihar	Gaya, Nalanda
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Jagdalpur
6.	Goa	Porvorim, Colva
7.	Gujarat	Dholavira, Dwarka
8.	Haryana	Panchkula (Morni)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Pong Dam
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Basholi
11.	Jharkhand	Chandil
12.	Karnataka	Hampi, Mysuru
13.	Kerala	Kumarakom, Kozhikode (Bey pore)
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior, Chitrakoot
15.	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg, Ajanta-Ellora (District Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar)
16.	Manipur	Moirang (Bishnupur)
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong, Sohra
18.	Mizoram	Aizawl, Champhai
19.	Nagaland	Niuland, Chumukedima
20.	Odisha	Koraput, Debrigarh along with special attraction of 'Khinda Village'
21.	Punjab	Amritsar, Kapurthala
22.	Rajasthan	Bundi (Keshoraipatan), Jodhpur
23.	Sikkim	Gangtok, Gyalshing
24.	Tamil Nadu	Mamallapuram, The Nilgiris
25.	Telangana	Bhongir, Ananthagiri

26.	Tripura	Agartala, Unakoti
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj, Naimisharanya
28.	Uttarakhand	Pittoragarh, Champavat
29.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
30.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep
31.	Puducherry	Puducherry, Karaikal
32.	Ladakh	Leh, Kargil
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

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