

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2856
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

ANCIENT TEMPLE CIRCUIT IN KERALA UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

2856 SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to introduce an ancient temple circuit in Kerala under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme which is a Central Sector scheme launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (b): Development and promotion of tourism in the country is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments (SGs)/Union Territory Administrations (UTs). The Ministry of Tourism complements the efforts of SGs/UTs by providing financial assistance to them under its 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)' scheme. The details of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism under different themes in the State of Kerala is as under:-

S. No.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi- Vagamon-Thekkady	64.08
2.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	46.54
3.	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamura	78.08
4.	Rural Circuit 2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35
5.	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram-Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmanya-Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42

The Ministry has now revamped this scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and has sanctioned the following project in the State of Kerala:

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Year	Sanctioned Cost (₹ in Crore)
1.	Kumarakom	Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience	2023-24	13.92

The Ministry of Tourism under its Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augment Drive (PRASHAD) also provides financial assistance to SGs/UTs for development works at pilgrimage/religious sites. The details of the project sanctioned in the State of Kerala under PRASHAD scheme is as under:

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Approved Cost (₹ in Crore)
1.	Development at Guruvayur Temple	2016-17	45.19
