

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.349
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF 50 TOURIST DESTINATIONS

349 SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) the key criteria and parameters being considered for selecting the 50 tourist destinations under the proposed framework;
- (b) the details of plans to integrate local communities into the tourism ecosystem as part of this initiative;
- (c) the role that private sector investment will play in the development of the destinations; and
- (d) the manner in which the Ministry plans to attract private sector investment?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.349 ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF 50 TOURIST DESTINATIONS RAISED BY SHRI NARHARI AMIN

(a) to (d): Budget Speech for the year 2025-26 mentions that 'Top 50 tourist destination sites in the country will be developed in partnership with states through a challenge mode. Land for building key infrastructure will have to be provided by states. Hotels in those destinations will be included in the infrastructure Harmonized Master List (HML)'. The criteria would broadly encompass the potential of the destinations, preparedness of the State/Local Governments and the possibility of private investment.

While development of tourism is undertaken by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry of Tourism through its schemes such as Swadesh Darshan, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) etc. complements these development efforts by providing financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations to undertake projects related to tourism infrastructure development at various tourist sites/destinations. Implementation and management of such tourism projects result in engagement of communities & creating employment for locals in various tourism activities and attract private investment.

Government has taken steps to give fillip to private investment through declaration of status of tourism infrastructure for (i) three-star or higher category classified hotels located outside cities with population of more than 1 million, (ii) ropeways and cable cars which are included in the Harmonized Master List. In addition, Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre Projects with minimum built-up floor area of 100,000 square metres of exclusively exhibition space or convention space or both combined have also been included in the Harmonized Master List.

In order to attract foreign investment in the tourism sector, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed under the automatic route in the tourism and hospitality industry in India, subject to applicable regulations and laws. 100% FDI is allowed in tourism construction projects, including the development of hotels, resorts and recreational facilities.

Ministry of Tourism has collated best practices from States/UTs and issued a model framework to all State Governments/UT Administrations on 'Industry Status to the Tourism & Hospitality Sector', which provides guidance on public & private investments, ease of doing business, outreach to industry & investor community etc.
