

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2385
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS
AND NATIONAL PARKS**

2385 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:
SHRI HARIS BEERAN:
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government to promote sustainable tourism in ecologically sensitive areas and national parks;
- (b) the number of eco-tourism projects sanctioned and operationalised in 2024-25, State wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that increased tourism does not lead to environmental degradation in protected areas; and
- (d) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any tourism projects proposal and funds sanctioned during the last three years to Kerala?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including sustainable tourism is undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry complements the efforts of States/UTs by promoting various tourism products of the country, including sustainable tourism through various initiatives.

The Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism infrastructure development in the country. The details of projects sanctioned under the Eco Circuit are given at **Annexure-I**.

Environmental Sustainability is a key pillar in the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism formulated by the Ministry. In line with the strategy, Travel for LiFE programme has been initiated to promote sustainable tourism in the country and to encourage tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable tourism practices.

The Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Ministry has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. The Scheme encourages adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental sustainability, socio-cultural sustainability and economic sustainability.

The details of projects sanctioned in the State of Kerala are given at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2385 ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND NATIONAL PARKS RAISED BY SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM, SHRI HARIS BEERAN AND SMT. RANJEET RANJAN

Details of Projects sanctioned under Eco Circuit of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme

S. No.	State/UT	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)	Amount Released /Authorized * (₹ Crore)
1.	Jharkhand	Eco Circuit 2018-19	Development of Eco Tourism circuit: Dalma-Betla National park-Mirchaiya- Netarhat	30.44	28.04
2.	Kerala	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi-Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08	64.08
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Eco Circuit 2017-18	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- Bheda Ghat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	93.76	93.59
4.	Mizoram	Eco Circuit 2016-17	Development of Eco-Adventure Circuit Aizawl - Rawpuichhip - Khawhphawp - Lengpui - Chatlang- Sakawrhमितुaitlang - Muthee - Beratlawng - Tuirial Airfield - Hmuifang	66.37	53.09
5.	Telangana	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar district	91.62	91.25
6.	Uttarakhand	Eco Circuit 2015-16	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, and Associated Tourism Related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake & Surroundings as New Destination-District Tehri	69.17	69.17

* Includes amount of authorization to CNA through TSA Model I for Central Sector Scheme.

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2385 ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND NATIONAL PARKS RAISED BY SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM, SHRI HARIS BEERAN AND SMT. RANJEET RANJAN

List of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Kerala

S. No.	Circuit	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)	Amount Released/ Authorized* (₹ Crore)
1.	Eco Circuit	2015-16	Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon- Thekkady	64.08	64.08
2.	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Sabarimala-Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	46.54	33.39
3.	Spiritual Circuit	2016-17	Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamula	78.08	73.77
4.	Rural Circuit	2018-19	Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project	57.35	45.88
5.	Spiritual Circuit	2018-19	Development of Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram-Arruvipuram-Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania-Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42	42.01

* Includes amount of authorization to CNA through TSA Model I for Central Sector Scheme.

List of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in the State of Kerala

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Date of Sanction
1.	Kumarakom	Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience	13.92	05-03-2024

List of projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Kerala

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

List of projects in Kerala sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centers to Global Scale

S. No.	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Date of Sanction
1.	Ashtamudi Biodiversity and Eco-recreational Hub in Kollam	59.71	26-11-2024

2.	Global Gateway to Malabar's Cultural Crucible in Sargaalayaa	95.34	26-11-2024
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List of projects in Kerala sanctioned under the Scheme Assistance to Central Agencies

S. No.	Name of Project	Agency	Sanction Date	Amount sanctioned (₹ Lakh)	Amount Released (₹ Lakh)
1.	Development of a Walkway/Promenade on Willingdon Island, Cochin, Kerala	Cochin Port Trust	28-10-2016	901	826.29
2.	Central Financial Assistance for upgrading of Births & Backup area of Ernakulam Wharf	Cochin Port Trust	31-03-2017	2141	1912.8
3.	Project for Up-gradation of Golf Course at SAI Trivandrum Golf Club by the Sports Authority of India	SAI	31-03-2017	2464.99	1232.49
4.	Developing infrastructure at Cochin Port Cruise Terminal.	Cochin Port Trust	12-12-2018	120.79	114.17
5.	Creation of additional tourism facilities at the Cochin Port Trust Walkway	Cochin Port Trust	12-12-2018	466.47	466.47
6.	Development of Additional infrastructure in the new Cochin Port Trust Terminal	Cochin Port Trust	13-12-2019	1029.7	888.62

Financial Assistance to State Govts and UTS for organising Fairs & Festivals and Tourism Related Events

Name of state	Year	Name of Fairs & Festivals	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)	Amount released (Rs. In lakhs)
Kerala	2019-20	Home Stay and Rural Tourism Travel Meet by Kerala Home Stay and Tourism Society	10.00	10.00
		67th Nehru Trophy Boat Race	25.00	25.00
		9th Sargalaya International Arts and Crafts Festival	15.00	15.00
	2022-23	Sargalaya International Arts and Crafts Festival	25.00	25.00
