GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1583
ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0

1583   SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

(a)   the aims and objectives of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) and Challenge-Based Destination Development Programme;
(b)   whether it is a fact that Borra Caves in Araku of Andhra Pradesh has been identified under SD2.0 in 2024-25 with an estimated cost of ₹30 crores;
(c)   if so, the details thereof;
(d)   the works proposed to be taken up for developing the above site; and
(e)   the present status of those works and by when all the works are likely to be completed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM   (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e):   While development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government/UT Administration, the Ministry of Tourism through its various schemes including Swadesh Darshan scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations to complement the efforts of tourism infrastructure development. Ministry revamped Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with a broad objective to undertake sustainable development of destinations and has accordingly sanctioned 53 projects in the country under SD2.0 which includes the project "Borra Cave Experience at Araku" in Andhra Pradesh sanctioned in the year 2023-24 for Rs.29.88 Crore. The project broadly envisages development of tourist facilitation and infrastructure components such as entrance gate, parking, market street development, visitor centre, cafeteria, amenity block, cave development, lighting, projection mapping, signages etc and the same has been reported as at the stage of implementation. Swadesh Darshan scheme is approved till March, 2026.

        Further, the Ministry with the idea to undertake holistic development of the destinations has also sanctioned 38 projects under 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.

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