

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2224
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

2224 SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the details of thematic areas covered under Sustainable and Responsible Tourism, such as heritage conservation, community participation and environmental sustainability and how these align with the broader goals of the Ministry;
- (b) the details of criteria for selecting projects thereunder, the process of implementation and the role of State Governments and Union Territories in executing these projects; and
- (c) the details of mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of such projects on local communities, ecosystems and the tourism sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism has revamped the Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in the country, following a destination and tourist centric approach. The scheme recognizes that sustainable and responsible tourism is the key and encourages adoption of principles of sustainable tourism including environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability.

This scheme provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure and experiences in the country, to the SGs/UTAs, on receipt of the project proposals from them, in synergy with the scheme guidelines, Government directions, availability of funds, inter-se priority etc.

Projects sanctioned under SD2.0 scheme are implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations under monitoring of state and centre level institutional frameworks.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme further encourages State Governments/UT Administrations to undertake due consultations with local communities and stakeholders, use of renewable energy, eco-friendly materials, adopt sustainable tourism practices, development of accessible infrastructure and services, focus on capacity building, local entrepreneurship etc.

Further, The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and the following strategic pillars have been identified for development of sustainable tourism:

- i. Promoting Environmental Sustainability
- ii. Protecting Biodiversity
- iii. Promoting Economic Sustainability
- iv. Promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability

- v. Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism
- vi. IEC and Capacity Building Governance

The Ministry has also launched the Travel for LiFE initiative to promote sustainable tourism across the country and to encourage tourists as well as tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices to preserve local culture, environment and heritage.
