

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3019
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

EXPANSION OF ECO-TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

3019 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of funds sanctioned by the Central Government to support Himachal Pradesh's targeted expansion of 50 new eco-tourism sites across multiple forest circles;
- (b) the details of targeted capacity-building programmes funded by the Central Government to train local tribal youth as certified nature guides and outdoor hospitality entrepreneurs; and
- (c) the guidelines enforced by the Ministry to ensure that the liberalization of the State's homestay policy for non-residents does not economically displace indigenous youth communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Himachal Pradesh in their tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations. This financial assistance is extended, subject to availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines and other instructions issued from time to time, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, etc. The details of full sanctioned under central sector schemes are annexed as **Annexure**.

(b): The Ministry through a digital initiative conducts Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) and Incredible India Tourist Guide (IITG) certification Programme. These programs aim at creating an online learning platform with an objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators & Guides.

The Ministry of Tourism conducts hospitality and tourism related short-term training certificate courses for skilling, up skilling and re skilling under its "Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP)" scheme through Government institutes and empanelled private institutes including Indian Institute of Hotel Management, Food Craft Institutes, Indian Culinary Institute, etc. These training courses include Hunar Se Rozgar Tak, the Entrepreneurship Programme, Skill Testing & Certification, and the Tourism Awareness Programme etc.

(c): Ministry of Tourism classifies fully operational rooms of Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Facilities on a voluntary basis in States & Union Territories of India where the respective State Government / UT Administration does not have its own scheme for approval/ classification/ accreditation of Homestays/Bed & Breakfast. The State of Himachal Pradesh has notified their own Homestays/Bed & Breakfast (B&B) scheme and hence, the classification of homestays/B&B is conducted by the State.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3019 ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026 REGARDING EXPANSION OF ECO-TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH RAISED BY DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

Swadesh Darshan scheme

S. No.	State/UT	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Himalayan 2016-17	Development of Himalayan Circuit: Kiarighat, Shimla, Hatkoti, Manali, Kangra, Dharamshala, Bir, Palampur, Chamba	68.34

Swadesh Darshan 2.0

S. No.	State	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Chintpurni	Development of Maa Chintpurni Devi Temple, Una	04.07.2025	56.26

Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)

S. No.	State	Destination / Category	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Kaza (Culture & Heritage)	Tourism Infrastructure development at Kaza	27.03.2025	24.82
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Rakchham (Vibrant Village Programme)	Tourism Infrastructure Development at Rakcham - Vibrant Village	27.03.2025	4.96
