

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.613
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN HERITAGE-RICH DISTRICTS

613 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has identified tourism potential in underdeveloped yet heritage-rich districts such as Ayodhya, Etawah and Bundelkhand for development under Swadesh Darshan or PRASHAD schemes;
- (b) the number and status of rural infrastructure projects sanctioned in these locations for tourism enhancement;
- (c) whether Government has created homestay models, cultural circuits or livelihood generation plans linked to tourism; and
- (d) the quantum of rural employment generated and role of local women in such projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Identification and development of tourism infrastructure, amenities and experiences at tourist destinations is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism, under its various schemes such as Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), provides financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure and experiences across the country, including underdeveloped, lesser known, tribal, rural and heritage rich tourism destinations.

Further, under the aforesaid schemes, tourism infrastructure and destination experiences are developed through an integrated, inclusive and sustainable approach. The interventions under these scheme are intended to enhance visitor experiences, strengthen local economies and generate employment and livelihood opportunities for local communities, including women.

In addition, the Ministry under its scheme of 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' under DAJGUA a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 promotes community-based tourism by supporting homestay development and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities in tribal areas.

The list of projects sanctioned under these schemes in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh including rural destinations is **annexed**.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.613 ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN HERITAGE-RICH DISTRICTS RAISED BY SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

List of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India under Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' under DAJGUA a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) schemes in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is as under:

(i). Uttar Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Project and Sanction Year	Sanction Cost (in ₹ Crore)
A	Swadesh Darshan 1.0	
i.	Development of Buddhist Circuit in Srawasti, Kushinagar & Kapilwastu (Sep 2016)	87.89
ii.	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur under Ramayana Circuit (Oct 2021)	69.45
iii.	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Shahjahanpur-Basti- Ahar- Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi-Pratapgarh-Unnao-Kaushambi- Mirzapur- Gorakhpur- Kairana- Domaryaganj- Baghpat-Barabanki- Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh (Nov 2016)	71.91
iv.	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balia- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh (Dec 2016)	67.51
v.	Development of Heritage Circuit in Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- Maghar Dham (Sant Kabir Nagar)- Chauri Chaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- Mauhar Sthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut) (Dec 2016)	36.65
vi.	Development of Ayodhya under Ramayana Circuit (Sep 2017)	127.21
vii.	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja-Banda (July 2018)	12.03
viii.	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyaganj) (Jan 2019)	18.30
ix.	Development of Wayside Amenities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (June 2018)	17.50
B	Swadesh Darshan 2.0	
i.	Vedic Wellness Experience, Naimisharanya, Uttar Pradesh (March 2024)	17.80
ii.	Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Experience (March 2024)	14.52
C	Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)	
i.	Development of Cultural Landscape at Mahoba (March 2025)	24.98

D	Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)	
i.	Development of Varanasi – Phase –I (March 2016, rev March 2023)	18.73
ii.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II) (March 2015, rev October 2022)	10.98
iii.	Development of River Cruise Tourism in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (November 2017, rev October 2022)	9.02
iv.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan (March 2015, rev December 2019)	9.36
v.	Development of Varanasi – Phase –II (February 2018, rev December 2018)	44.60
vi.	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan (January 2019, rev January 2024)	37.59

(ii). Madhya Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Project & Sanctioned Year	Amount Sanctioned (in ₹ Crore)
A	Swadesh Darshan 1.0	
i.	Development of Wildlife Circuit at Panna- Mukundpur- Sanjay-Dubri-Bandhavgarh- Kanha- Mukki- Pench (December 2015)	92.10
ii.	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar (July 2016)	74.02
iii.	Development of Gwalior – Orchha – Khajuraho – Chanderi – Bhimbetka – Mandu (September 2016)	89.82
iv.	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- Bheda Ghat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River (September 2017)	93.76
B	Swadesh Darshan 2.0	
i.	Spiritual experience at Chitrakoot (March 2024)	27.22
ii.	Phoolbagh Experience Zone (February 2024)	16.74
iii.	Development of Pitambara Peeth Datia (July 2025)	44.24
C	Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)	
i.	Orchha A Medieval Splendour 2.0 (March 2025)	25.00
ii.	Mandu-A Medieval Wonder (January 2026)	24.88
D	Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)	
i.	Development of Amarkantak (January 2021)	49.99
ii.	Development of Omkareshwar (June 2017, rev December 2022)	43.93
E	Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0	
i.	Development of Tribal Homestays in Karanjiya and Pushparajgarh clusters (March 2026)	5.00
