

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†384
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

IDENTIFICATION OF TOURIST SPOTS

†384. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to identify and develop additional tourist spots in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop Kalibanga and Laila Majnu Ki Mazar in Rajasthan as tourist spots and is taking any steps to promote tourism in that area; and**
- (c) whether in future the Government is likely to consider developing border areas such as Gram Naggi, Lakha-Hakam and Hindu-Malkot and other places in the country as tourist spots in order to help improve the standard of living of people residing in that area?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism has launched two schemes i.e., Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASHAD- National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive in 2014-15 for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Under Swadesh Darshan scheme fifteen thematic circuits have been identified for development namely; North-East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Tirthankar Circuit.

Under PRASHAD scheme, 25 sites of religious significance have been identified for development in the country, namely Amaravati, Tirupati & Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Ayodhya, Mathura & Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Dwarka & Somnath (Gujarat), Gaya & Patna (Bihar), Kanchipuram & Vellankani (Tamil Nadu), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Belur (West Bengal), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Hazratbal & Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Kamakhya (Assam), Kedarnath & Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Puri (Odisha), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh).

(b): The projects under the scheme for development are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates, submission of suitable Detailed Project Report (DPR) and adherence to the scheme guidelines. Based on proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan, Ministry has sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.43.37 lakhs for Development of Kalibanga in Rajasthan under Heritage Circuit project.

(c): Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Ministry has sanctioned projects for Development of tourist facilities in border areas at Suchetgarh (Jammu & Kashmir), Akaura (Tripura) and Moreh (Manipur). One of the major aims of Swadesh Darshan Scheme is to create employment opportunities for locals which in turn would lead to increase sources of income, improved living standards and overall development of the area.
