

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3191
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018**

**DECLARATION OF PILGRIM PLACES AS NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE
CENTRE**

3191. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a demand that Sabarimala in Kerala be declared as National Pilgrimage Centre;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the decision taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether there are any similar requests from Kerala and other State Governments to declare other pilgrim centres as National Pilgrimage Centres;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the action taken by the Government on these requests, State/UT wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a) to (e): Madam, Ministry of Tourism does not declare any destination as National Pilgrimage Centre. Thus, no proposal for declaration of Sabarimala in Kerala as National Pilgrimage Centre is pending in the Ministry. Development and Promotion of tourist places including the Pilgrimage Centres is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territories. However, Ministry of Tourism, under its scheme "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive" (PRASHAD) provides Central Financial Assistance only for infrastructure development and beautification of Pilgrimage Centres on receipt of suitable DPRs submitted by State Governments/Union Territories, subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilisation certificate against the fund released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.
