

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2255  
ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018**

**DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST SITES AS ICONIC TOURISM  
DESTINATIONS**

**2255. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:**

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to develop 10 prominent sites as iconic tourist destinations in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the stage of identification and development of the 10 tourism sites as iconic tourism destinations;**
- (c) the criteria adopted for inclusion of locations in iconic list; and**
- (d) the fund allocated and expenditure incurred in this regard during the budget 2018-19?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)**

**(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

**(a) and (b): Pursuant to Budget Announcements of 2018-19, Ministry of Tourism has identified following 17 sites in 12 clusters in the country for development under Iconic Tourist Sites Development Project: Uttar Pradesh- Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri; Maharashtra- Ajanta & Ellora; Delhi- Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort & Qutub Minar; Goa- Colva beach; Rajasthan- Amer Fort; Gujarat- Somnath & Dholavira; Madhya Pradesh- Khajuraho; Karnataka- Hampi; Tamil Nadu- Mahabalipuram; Assam- Kaziranga; Kerala- Kumarakom; Bihar- Mahabodhi.**

**The Ministry shall be developing the above sites in a holistic manner with focus on issues concerning connectivity to the destination, better facilities/experience for the tourists at the site,**

**skill development, involvement of local community, promotion & branding and by bringing private investment.**

**The Ministry has appointed consultants for developing the Master plan and shelf of projects for the above sites except Dholavira. The consultants are in the process of submitting final reports for the sites.**

**(c): The sites for development were selected on the basis of Tourist Footfall, Geographical Distribution, Potential for Development and Ease of Implementation.**

**(d): The development of Iconic Tourist Destinations is being implemented under the ongoing Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. There is no separate allocation of funds for this project. Till date, an expenditure of Rs.1.28 crore has been incurred by the Ministry on Development of Master Plan and shelf of projects by the consultants under the project.**

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