

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1425  
ANSWERED ON 01.07.2019**

**PILGRIMAGE TO HINDU'S RELIGIOUS SITES**

**†1425. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to encourage pilgrims to visit Hindu pilgrimage sites such as Vaishno Devi, Kailash Mansarovar, Pashupatinath (Kathmandu-Nepal), Badrinath etc;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country, including its Pilgrimage sites. Promotions are also undertaken through the Social Media accounts and website of the Ministry. In addition, the Indiatourism Offices in India and overseas disseminate information and undertake various promotional activities with the objective of showcasing the varied tourist destinations and products of the country.**

**Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD-National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive Schemes is developing tourism infrastructure in the country. Under PRASHAD Scheme 41 spiritual sites in 25 States have been identified for development which includes Katra and**

**Badrinath. Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, fifteen thematic circuits have been identified including themes covering spiritual sites for development, namely: Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Sufi Circuit.**

**The details of projects sanctioned under the above schemes for development of Katra and Badrinath is as follows:**

- 1. Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham (Uttarakhand) under PRASHAD Scheme sanctioned in 2018-19 for Rs.39.24 crore.**
- 2. Development of Tourist Facilities at Katra for Rs.3.48 crore under the project 'Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure in the State of Jammu & Kashmir under Himalayan Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme' sanctioned in 2016-17.**

**Ministry of External Affairs organizes the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in cooperation with the State Governments of Uttarakhand, Delhi, and Sikkim along with the Indo-Tibetan Boarder Police (ITBP) and other concerned agencies of Government of India. For the Yatra organized by the Ministry of External Affairs along the Lipulekh and Nathu La routes, Government of India takes various steps to facilitate the Yatra which include a dedicated website to further simplify and expedite the registration and selection process, communication with Yatris, and a helpline based on Interactive Voice Response System which provides information in Hindi and English to the Yatris. Medical test is also conducted for Yatris to ensure their fitness for high altitude endurance.**

**Further, the Government of India arranges, on self-payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, food, medical test, guides, Chinese visa, foreign exchange, and porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings of Yatris.**

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