

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1229
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2020**

DEVELOPMENT OF BATESHWAR DHAM

†1229. SHRI DULAL CHAND GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any important State-wise scheme to promote tourism in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop Bateshwar Dham on the bank of Ganga-koshi Confluence in Katihar of Bihar as a tourist place where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhiji were immersed; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Ministry of Tourism undertakes promotional activities in domestic and international markets through its schemes of 'Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH)' and Overseas Promotion & Publicity Including Market Development Assistance (OPMD). Under these schemes, Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination under the Incredible India brand-line. As part of its on-going activities, the Ministry releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD and Assistance to Central Agencies provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/ UT Administrations/Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

(c) to (d): Development and promotion of Tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of respective State Governments/Union Territories. However, Ministry of Tourism, under the scheme “Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive” (PRASHAD) provides Central Financial Assistance for infrastructure development and beautification of Tourism 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. Identification of more destinations under these schemes is a continuous process, which is to be considered only on receipt of request from respective State Governments/UTs. Ministry has not received any proposal for development of Bateswar Dham from the State Government of Bihar.

Further, Ministry has sanctioned the project ‘Development of Bhitiharwa - Chandrahia – Turkaulia under Rural Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme’ for development of East Champaran and West Champaran districts in Bihar in the year 2017-18 for Rs.44.65 Crore and has released Rs.21.24 Crore under the project, till date. The sites taken under the project are associated with Mahatma Gandhi and Champaran Satyagraha Movement.
