

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2528  
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021**

**SANCTION OF CIRCUIT IN KERALA TO CONNECT TEMPLES**

**2528. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sanction more schemes under PRASAD and if so the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Sabarimala Sreedharma Sastha Temple is one of the most important pilgrim centre in our Country and if so, the action taken for sanctioning a circuit under PRASAD connecting the other three Ayyappa Temples such as Aryankavu, Kulathupuzha and Achenkovil;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes the development of Aryankavu, Kulathupuzha and Achenkovil Ayyappa Temples closely connected with the Sabarimala pilgrimage and the PRASAD Scheme and if so, the action taken thereon;**
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the pilgrim tourism potential and spiritual tourism potential of Aryankavu, Kulathupuzha and Achenkovil Ayyappa Temples in connection with the Sabarimala pilgrimage; and if so, the details there of;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to conduct a study in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

**Answer**

**MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (c): Identification of the destinations / places for development of pilgrimage tourism infrastructure and approval of projects under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism is a continuous process, which is done on receipt of suitable proposals / requests**

**from the respective State Government / Union Territory Administration in line with the scheme guidelines. PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism is a destination based scheme. Projects under the scheme are not sanctioned in the form of circuits. Ministry of Tourism has approved following projects under its Swadesh Darshan scheme covering Sabarimala Temple for development of pilgrimage tourism infrastructure:**

- Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam under Spiritual Circuit at the cost of Rs. 99.99 Cr in the year 2016-17.**
- Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamura- Sabarimala under Spiritual Circuit at the cost of Rs. 87.20 Cr in the year 2016-17.**

**(d) & (e): No Sir. Projects under PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan Schemes of Ministry of Tourism are considered and approved on the requests/ proposals received from the respective State Governments/ Union Territories. The onus to get such studies conducted and prepare suitable projects lies with the concerned State Governments / Union Territory Administrations only.**

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