

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2294  
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

**DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM CIRCUIT**

**2294 SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

- (a) the whether the Government is intending to introduce a religious tourism circuit connecting Chakkulathkavu Temple and the Tomb of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any representation from the State Government of Kerala in this regard; and**
- (d) if so, the actions taken thereupon?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism, through its central sector schemes of 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) and 'Swadesh Darshan' (SD) supports tourism infrastructure development by providing financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Under these schemes, infrastructure interventions are carried out in consultation with the State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism, from time to time receives representations/proposals from various sources regarding development of infrastructure under the various schemes of this Ministry and these proposals are evaluated as per scheme guidelines and established procedures.**

**Ministry of Tourism, has no proposal under consideration for development of the said religious tourism circuit under both PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan Scheme.**

**However, under PRASHAD scheme, the project "Development of Guruvayur Temple" has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.45.19 crore in Kerala. Additionally, five theme-based projects under the Swadesh**

**Darshan Scheme have been sanctioned in Kerala at a combined cost of Rs.312.47 crore. These projects are: 'Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi- Vagamon- Thekkady, 'Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam', 'Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamura', 'Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project and 'Development of Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram- Arruvipuram-Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania- Chembazhanthi Sree Narayana Gurukulam'. Furthermore, two destinations, Kumarakom and Kozhikode (Beypore), have been identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme in Kerala. Among these, the project 'Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience' has been sanctioned at the destination 'Kumarakom' at a cost of Rs.13.92 crore under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. Additionally, two destinations, 'Varkala' and 'Thalassery,' have been identified for development in Kerala under the Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0.**

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