

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3428
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024**

TOURISM IMPROVEMENT IN RAMESHWARAM TEMPLE AREA

3428. SHRI NAVASKANI K:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes any special plan to improve tourism in the surrounding areas of Rameshwaram temple where lakhs of people from all over the country visit every day, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop the beautiful beaches in Ramanathapuram district and make them to attract tourist, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to develop the historic Dhanushkodi area, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism through the ongoing schemes of “Swadesh Darshan” and “Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” and “Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development” complements the efforts of the State Governments (SGs)/UT Administrations (UTs) by extending financial assistance to SGs/UTs/Central Agencies for tourism infrastructure development at various tourism destinations in the country including Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has sanctioned a project under coastal circuit namely 'Development of (Chennai- Mamamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)' at the cost of Rs.73.13 Crore.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has issued guidelines for ‘Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)’, a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0. This sub-scheme aims for holistic development of destination to enhance tourist experience and the Ministry has identified 42 destinations under CBDD in the country including 'Rameswaram Island' and 'Thanjavur' in Tamil Nadu.
