

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.80
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025**

CENTRAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

80. SHRI MANI A:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has extended Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to Tamil Nadu for the development of tourism infrastructure, particularly ecotourism destinations, under various schemes including the Swadesh Darshan Scheme;**
- (b) the details of ecotourism projects sanctioned and implemented in Tamil Nadu, with specific reference to Dharmapuri district, under the Eco Circuit theme;**
- (c) whether any proposals have been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for development of new ecotourism destinations in Dharmapuri and adjoining areas such as Hogenakkal and the Cauvery Wildlife region;**
- (d) the details of the funds approved, released and utilized for such projects during the last three years and the current year; and**
- (e) the details of the steps taken/being taken to promote ecotourism in Dharmapuri through digital campaigns and community-based tourism initiatives?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/Union Territory Administration (UTA). However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan scheme and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development in the country by extending financial assistance to the SGs/UTAs in synergy with the scheme guidelines, receipt of the project proposals from the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, availability of funds etc. Ministry of Tourism has revamped the

Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

Government of India under its 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' sanctioned 40 projects in 23 States for Rs.3295.76 Crore in the country including Tamil Nadu in Financial Year 2024-25, with the primary objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country, branding and marketing them at global scale.

In addition, the Ministry under its Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development (ACATID) scheme also provides financial assistance to central agencies for development of tourism projects.

The details of the projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD, SASCI and ACATID schemes in the state of Tamil Nadu is annexed. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to sanction new projects at eco-tourism destinations.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism promotes various tourist destinations and products of the country including those in Tamil Nadu in domestic and international markets in a holistic manner under the brand line of 'Incredible India'. Such promotions are undertaken through various ongoing initiatives such as social media posts, promotional website, tourism related events, extending support to tourism related fairs and festivals, participation in road shows etc.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.80 ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025 REGARDING CENTRAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE RAISED BY SHRI MANI A.****(i) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:****(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S. No.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released / Authorized	Amount Utilized
1.	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of (Chennai- Mamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)	73.13	71.03	71.03

(ii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:**(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Authorized for utilization by Implementing Agency
1.	2023-24	Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore Temple	30.02	--

(iii) Details of Project sanctioned under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:**(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Category	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Authorized for utilization by State Implementing Agency

1.	2024-25	Iconic Transformation of Rameswaram	Spiritual Tourism	20.01	2.00
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(iv) Details of Project sanctioned under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released for utilization
1.	2024-25	Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram	99.67	112.13
2.	2024-25	Garden of Flowers in Devala (Project location changed to Ooty)	70.23	

(v) Details of Project sanctioned under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount	Amount Released	Amount Utilized
1.	Development of Kanchipuram	2016-17	13.99	13.99	13.99
2.	Development of Velankanni	2016-17	4.86	4.86	4.86
3.	Development of 8 Navagraha Temples	2024-25	40.94	--	--

(vi) Details of Project sanctioned under Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development (ACATID) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount	Amount Released
1.	Illumination and allied works at GangaikondaCholapuram Temple, District - Ariyalur	31-03-2025	11.47	--

2.	Cruise Passenger Facilities Centre in the existing Passenger Terminal at Chennai Port.	24-09-2012	17.24	17.24
3.	Rameshwaram Railway Station	28-03-2018	4.7	3.75
4.	Madurai Railway Station	30-06-2018	4.48	3.56
