

- (vi) **Sustainable Tourism:** The Ministry of Tourism has launched a Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for three major segments of tourism industry, namely accommodation, tour operators and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes and Rivers sector on 26.08.2014.

The Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) addresses need of various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plan (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control etc.

- (vii) **Safety of Women Tourists:** The Ministry of Tourism had advised the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up Tourist Police at prominent tourist spots. As a result, the State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

An advisory has been posted on the Ministry of Tourism website www.incredibleindia.org indicating that India remains safe destination for international Tourists including women tourists.

(c) and (d) In the Budget for 2014-15, two new schemes namely Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) were announced. Circuits/Destinations identified for these two schemes are as below:

- (i) Swadesh Darshan – Circuits are identified under theme – based approach. Five themes initially identified under Swadesh Darshan include “Buddhist Circuit”, “Himalayan Circuit”, “Coastal Circuit”, “Krishna Circuit” and “North-East Circuit”.
- (ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) - Twelve cities initially identified under the scheme are Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Vellankanni.

Spiritual/pilgrimage destinations in the country

1194. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to develop certain holy places and heritage monuments to boost spiritual tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop tourist circuits on the basis of spiritual sites/pilgrimage destinations for the purpose and provide tourism infrastructure at such sites/pilgrimage destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has launched two new schemes in the last financial year:

- (1) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.
- (2) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.

Under Swadesh Darshan, the following five circuits have been identified for development:-

- (i) North East Circuit
- (ii) Buddhist Circuit
- (iii) Himalayan Circuit
- (iv) Coastal Circuit
- (v) Krishna Circuit

Under PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.

The details of projects sanctioned under these new schemes are given in the Statement (*See below*).

A budget provision of ₹ 600.00 crore and ₹ 100.00 crore is available for Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD respectively for the year 2015-16.

Statement

Projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Name of the Circuit	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanction	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	North-East Circuit	Bhalukpong–Bomdila-Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh	50.00	10.00
2.	Buddhist Circuit	Cultural Centre, Bodhgaya	33.17	6.63

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Coastal Circuit	Kakinada–Hope Island-Konaseema as World Coastal and Eco Tourism Circuit (Phase-I) in Andhra Pradesh	69.83	3.37

Projects sanctioned under PRASAD

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the City	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Gaya	Development of Basic Facilities at Vishnupad Temple, Gaya, Bihar.	4.29	0.86
2.	Puri	Infrastructure Development at Puri.	50.00	10.00
3.	Mathura	Development of Mathura–Vrindavan.	14.93	2.99
4.	Mathura	Mathura Tourist Facilitation Center	9.35	1.75

Development of waterfall at Aharbal in Jammu and Kashmir as a tourist spot

†1195. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to bring famous waterfall tourist destination at Aharbal in Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir on the national tourism map;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will initiate action to bring this famous tourist destination and waterfall on the tourism map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for projects which are prioritized in consultation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.