

- (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.

Twelve theme based circuits *i.e.* North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under “Swadesh Darshan”. The circuits can provide engaging and complete tourism experience to both domestic and foreign tourists.

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

The list of number of projects and amount sanctioned under Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC), Human Resource Development (HRD), Fairs and Festivals, Rural Tourism, Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given in Statement (Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No 2688).

For the State of West Bengal tourism projects could not be sanctioned during 2013-14 and 2014-15 due to pendency of Utilisation Certificates for the funds released earlier, which is required as per the Scheme Guidelines.

Cleanliness around important tourist places

2690. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many important tourist places in the country are not maintained up to the mark especially cleanliness in and around the tourist places;
- (b) whether Government in consultation with the State Governments proposes to put a unified effort to maintain these tourist places in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Maintenance of cleanliness at tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration/concerned agency designated for maintenance of tourist spots.

However, with a vision to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness at tourist destinations for maintaining cleanliness at tourist spots the Ministry of Tourism has taken following initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:

(i) **Swachh Bharat - Swachh Smarak:**

This is an initiative to see a cleaner India for protecting and preserving the sanctity of monuments of national heritage. To aid this, Ministry of Tourism launched a special e-poster with the Prime Minister's message requesting the tourists and the people of the nation to wholeheartedly engage themselves in the cleanliness of their surroundings and help create a Swachh Bharat - Swachh Smarak.

(ii) **Swachh Bharat - Swachh Pakwan (Hunar Zaika):**

The street food vendors constitute a significant percentage of the hospitality service providers and have a pan India presence. This initiative is aimed at upgrading the skills and hygiene standards of Street Food Vendors, so that they become a distinctive aspect of the Indian tourism. The Ministry of Tourism has partnered with the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) for the specific purpose of orientation, skill testing and certification of the vendors.

(iii) **Swachh Bharat - Swachh Paryatan:**

Ministry of Tourism has requested all States/UTs to assess the requirement of toilet facilities at all popular tourist sites, provide a list of existing non-functional toilets already constructed, frame specific project proposals for toilets under Central Financial Assistance (CFA), identify an agency for construction and maintenance and follow the standardized model on the lines of Build and Operate pattern for construction of wayside amenities.

Meetings have been held with representatives and founder of Sulabh International to discuss the pattern and modalities for construction of wayside amenities at tourist centres in the country.

Ministry of Tourism has requested all industry associations to motivate their members to install the 'Organic waste to Compost' Machines, which convert organic waste in to compost in just 24 hours in their premises.

Further, Ministry of Tourism has operationalized 2 new Plan Schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD from 2014-15. Under these schemes the Ministry provides CFA to States/UTs for Infrastructure development including wayside amenities, garbage bins, sewerage/effluent disposal, etc.

- (iv) Ministry of Tourism has also launched an initiative “Campaign Clean India” to sensitize all sections of society on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in public places particularly monuments and tourist destinations. This Campaign is to be sustained through adoption and involvement of private and public sector stakeholders as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). It is a voluntary scheme and no funds have been allocated by the Government for this campaign.

Funds for tourism development projects of States

†2691. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the States have requested the Ministry to provide funds for the tourism development projects;
- (b) if so, the names of the projects receiving from the States;
- (c) whether the States have been provided funds according to their requirement;
- (d) if so, the names of the projects for which funds have been provided; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, *inter-se priority*, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

The list of number of projects and amount sanctioned for the tourism development projects during the last three years is given in Statement (Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No 2688).

Proposal of Madhya Pradesh for Food Craft Institute

†2692. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal related to Food Craft Institute to Government for approval, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the said proposal is expected to be approved soon and the proposed amount is to be released and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.