

During 2014-15, MoT has launched following two schemes for development of tourism in thematic manner:

Swadesh Darshan: Swadesh Darshan was launched for development of theme based tourist circuits in a way that caters to both mass and niche tourism in a holistic manner. Thirteen Circuits namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit have been identified for development under this scheme. Under this scheme, the Ministry of Tourism has released ₹ 30.59 crore and ₹ 266.15 crore to different States/UTs during 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively.

National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD): This Scheme has been launched for the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites to tap the growth of domestic tourists driven by religious sentiments and to augment tourism infrastructure at places of pilgrimage to facilitate pilgrims/tourists. Cities namely Amritsar, Kedarnath, Ajmer, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Dwarka, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kamakhya and Patna have been identified for infrastructure development under the scheme. During 2014-15 and 2015-16 the Ministry has released ₹ 15.60 crore and ₹ 30.15 crore, respectively for development of the identified cities.

Financial assistance to Puducherry under PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan Scheme

136. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and project-wise details of Central Financial Assistance provided to Puducherry for tourism projects in the last five years;

(b) the project-wise status of each of the project undertaken in the last five years;

(c) whether infrastructure schemes such as PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan Scheme have been introduced in Puducherry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount so far spent under the above two schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) During the last five years (2010-11 to 2014-15) the following 03 projects were sanctioned for the Union Territory of Puducherry for a total amount of ₹ 98.59 crores:—

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Status
1.	Development of Kirumampakkam lake at Puducherry as tourist destination	500.00	Dropped by the UT Admn.
2.	Development of Puducherry as a Mega Tourism Circuit	4511.00	Ongoing
3.	Development of Recreational Parks/ Gardens and tourist amenities around Yanam Tower, Development of Oussudu lake and Arikamedu and lighting of heritage monuments and buildings	4848.16	Ongoing
GRAND TOTAL		9859.16	

(c) and (d) Under Swadesh Darshan scheme, 13 circuits viz. North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit have been identified. Projects relating to these thematic circuits in any States or Union Territory, including the UT of Puducherry are eligible for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under the scheme subject to availability of funds and the relevant scheme guidelines. Under PRASAD scheme, presently no pilgrimage site in Puducherry is identified. Identification of sites under this scheme is a continuous process subject to availability of funds and the relevant scheme guidelines.

Cruise tourism in the country

137. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase cruise tourism in the country, considering its vast coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of funds the Centre has allocated for financial assistance in any of the schemes relating to the promotion of cruise tourism; and

(d) the locations that have identified for cruise tourism and the list of parameters on the basis of which these locations have been selected?