

- Setting up the 'Indian Culinary Institute' at Tirupati and its centre at Noida for education, research, innovation in and documentation and promotion of rich Indian culinary arts.

Ministry of Tourism has not made any presentation about achievements before Prime Minister.

There has been an overall improvement in the growth of FTA and FEE in tourism sector during the last two years. The performance of MoT has also improved in terms of facilities provided to tourists and investment made for overall development of tourist destinations and circuits.

The focus of the Ministry is on Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Theme under the 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme and beautification and improvement of amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage sites under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Aggressive/targeted publicity and promotion of various tourism destinations and products in the international and domestic markets, capacity development in Tourism and Hospitality Sector, Development of Niche Tourism Products such as Cruise, Medical, Farm, Adventure etc. are amongst other focus areas.

Tourist Visa to foreigners for yoga

†1165. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to provide Tourist visa to foreigners in view of their increasing interest in yoga;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps so far in this regard; 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) Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the foreigners are allowed to attend short term yoga programme on Tourist Visa and e-Tourist Visa.

Setting up of tourism hubs in the States

1166. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up tourism hubs in various States of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government has received proposals from the State Governments on the incredible sites of the States;

(c) if not, whether Government will encourage to build such eco-tourism spots therein both infrastructural development and financial support; and

(d) if so, how Government would encourage the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched two new schemes in 2014-15 *i.e.* Swadesh Darshan-Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development 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. Under PRASAD Scheme also thirteen cities have been identified for development namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Kedarnath, Dwarka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Kamakhya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni and Patna.

The details of funds sanctioned to the various State Governments/Union Territories including Eco Circuits under both the schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD since 2014-15 till date are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes from 2014-15 till date.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme				(₹ in crore)
Sl. No.	Name of Theme	State	Name of Project	Sanction Amount
1	2	3	4	5
Year 2014-15				
1.	Coastal Circuit	Andhra Pradesh	Development of Kakinada Hope Island Konaseema as World Class Coastal and Eco Tourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh	69.83

1	2	3	4	5
2.	North East India Circuit	Arunachal Pradesh	Development of Bhalukpong- Bomdila-Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh	49.77
3.	Buddhist Circuit	Bihar	Construction of Cultural Centre adjacent to Maya Sarovar on the Western side at Bodhgaya, Bihar	33.17
Year 2015-16				
1.	North East India Circuit	Manipur	Development of Tourist Circuit in Manipur: Imphal- Moirang-Khongjom-Moreh	89.66
2.	North East India Circuit	Sikkim	Development of Tourist Circuit linking-Rangpo (entry)-Rorathang-Aritar- Phadamchen-Nathang- Sherathang-Tsongmo- Gangtok-Phodong-Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang-Lachen- Thangu-Gurudongmer- Mangan-Gangtok-Tumin Lingee-Singtam (exit) in Sikkim	98.05
3.	Eco Circuit	Uttarakhand	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism, Adventure Sports, Associated Tourism related Infrastructure for Development of Tehri Lake and Surroundings as New Destination-District Tehri, Uttarakhand	80.37
4.	Coastal Circuit	Andhra Pradesh	Development of Coastal Tourism Circuit in Sri Potti Sriramalu Nellore in Andhra Pradesh	60.38

1	2	3	4	5
5.	North East India Circuit	Arunachal Pradesh	Integrated Development of New Adventure Tourism in Arunachal Pradesh under North East Circuit of Swadesh Darshan	97.14
6.	Eco Circuit	Kerala	Development of Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady as Eco Tourism Circuit in Idduki and Pahanamthitta Districts in Kerala under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	99.22
7.	Desert Circuit	Rajasthan	Development of Sambhar Lake Town and Other Destinations in Jaipur District, Rajasthan under Desert Circuit in Swadesh Darshan Scheme	63.96
8.	Tribal Circuit	Nagaland	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren-Kohima-Wokha, Nagaland	97.36
9.	Eco Circuit	Telangana	Integrated Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar District, Telangana under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	91.62
10.	Wildlife Circuit	Madhya Pradesh	Development of Wildlife Circuit at Panna-Mukundpur-Sanjay-Dubri-Bandhavgarh-Kanha-Mukki-Pench in Madhya Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	92.22
11.	Wildlife Circuit	Assam	Manas-Pobitora-Nameri-Kaziranga-Dibru Saikhowa as Wild Life Circuit in Assam	95.67

1	2	3	4	5
12.	North East India Circuit	Tripura	Development of North East Circuit: Agartala-Sipahijala- Melaghar-Udaipur-Amarpur- Tirthamukh-Mandirghat- Dumboor-Narikel Kunja- Gandachara-Ambassa in Tripura	99.59
13.	Eco Circuit	Mizoram	Integrated Development of New Eco-Tourism under Swadesh Darshan-North East Circuit at Thenzawl and South Zote, District Serchhip and Reiek, Mizoram	94.91
14.	Coastal Circuit	West Bengal	Development of Beach Circuit in West Bengal- Udaipur-Digha-Shankarpur- Tajpur-Mandarmani- Fraserganj-Bakkhlai-Henry Island	85.39
15.	Coastal Circuit	Puducherry	Development of Union Territory of Puducherry as Tourist Circuit under “Swadesh Darshan” Scheme	85.28
16.	Tribal Circuit	Chhattisgarh	Development of Tribal Tourism Circuit in Jashpur- Kunkuri Mainpat-Ambikapur- Maheshpur-Ratanpur- Kurdar-Sarodadadar- Gangrel-Kondagaon- Nathyanawagaon-Jagdarpur- Chitrakoot-Tirthgarh in Chhattisgarh	99.94
17.	Coastal Circuit	Maharashtra	Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit in Maharashtra under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	82.17

1	2	3	4	5
Year 2016-17				
1.	Coastal Circuit	Goa	Development of Coastal Circuit (Sinquerim-Baga, Anjuna-Vagator, Morjim-Keri, Aguada Fort and Aguada Jail) in Goa under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	99.98
2.	Himalayan Circuit	Jammu and Kashmir	Integrated Development of Tourism Infrastructure Projects in the State of Jammu and Kashmir	82.97
3.	Tribal Circuit	Telangana	Integrated Development of Mulugu-Laknavaram-Medavaram-Tadvai-Damaravi-Mallur-Bogatha Waterfalls as Tribal Circuit in Telangana under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	84.40
4.	North East India Circuit	Meghalaya	Development of Umiam (Lake View)-U Lum Sohpetbneng-Mawdiangdiang-Orchid Lake Resort, Meghalaya	99.13
5.	Buddhist Circuit	Madhya Pradesh	Development of Buddhist Circuit in Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar in Madhya Pradesh	74.94
PRASAD Scheme				(₹ in crore)
Sl. No.	State	Name of the project		Sanction Amount
1	2	3		4
Year 2014-15				
1.	Bihar	Development of Basic Facilities at Vishnupad Temple, Gaya, Bihar		4.29

1	2	3	4
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	14.93
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan, Distt. Mathura	9.35
4.	Odisha	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham-Ramachandi-Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit	50.00

Year-2015-16

1.	Punjab	Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar	6.45
2.	Rajasthan	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	40.44
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh as Tourist Destination	28.36
4.	Assam	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati.	33.98
5.	Bihar	Development at Patna Saheb	41.53
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Development of Varanasi	20.40
7.	Uttarakhand	Development of Kedarnath	34.78

Special package for developing Ramayana and Krishna circuits

1167. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make Ramayana and Krishna circuits in different locations in the country in order to attract more foreign as well as domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details of these States;

(c) whether Government has allocated financial package for developing Ramayana and Krishna circuits in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the financial package; and

(e) whether any time-limit has been set for completion of these circuits?