

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has launched in 2014-2015, two new plan schemes viz., "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive" (PRASAD) for development and beautification of important pilgrimage sites in the country and "Swadesh Darshan" for Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country.

Under these schemes, the Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure including the component of waste management etc. to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in the country, including Gujarat subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier, submission of suitable Detailed Project Report and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

**Statement**

*Details of the ten iconic places to be cleaned up and upgraded to International Standard*

Sl. No.	States	Names
1.	Assam	1. Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2. Tirupati Temple, Tirumala
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	3. Vaishno Devi Temple, Jammu
4.	Odisha	4. Jagannath Temple, Puri
5.	Maharashtra	5. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai
6.	Punjab	6. Golden Temple, Amritsar
7.	Rajasthan	7. Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Ajmer
8.	Tamil Nadu	8. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai
9.	Uttar Pradesh	9. Taj Mahal, Agra
		10. Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi

**Strengthening of tourism sector**

†949. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to strengthen tourism sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of tourist places in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism is committed to strengthen and position tourism sector as a major engine for economic growth and to harness its direct and multiplier effect for employment and poverty eradication in a sustainable manner.

The Ministry of Tourism focusses on integrated development of tourism infrastructure and facilities, generating sufficient manpower to meet the requirements of the tourism and hospitality industry and to position India as a preferred 365 days tourism destination in major tourism generating markets to achieve the said objective.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic tourism destination including the various tourism sites and products of every State/Union Territory of the country in the domestic and international markets.

#### **New tourism circuits**

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

(a) whether Ministry proposes to declare certain new tourism circuits in the country to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the names of such places; and

(c) if not, whether the issue of creating new tourism circuits would be deliberated upon by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) For Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15.

Under the 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.

The details of projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme since 2014-15 are given in Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.