

- Launched campaigns in the international and domestic markets to promote the various tourism products and destinations through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy.
- Launched 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline 1800111363 in 12 Languages.
- Constituted Medical and Wellness Tourism Promotion Board.
- Provided Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and promotion of tourism.

Development of Ramayana and Krishna circuits

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

(a) whether the Central Government has been developing a Ramayana circuit related to pilgrimage places of Lord Rama under tourism development;

(b) if so, by when the work of Ramayana circuit is to be completed;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to develop Krishna circuit also under tourism development;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a proposal has come to Government for developing other specific circuits including Sita circuit to connect the pilgrimage places under tourism development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) to (d) Ramayana and Krishna Circuit are among fifteen thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

The Ministry has initially identified following destinations for development under Ramayana and Krishna Circuit:

- **Ramyana Circuit:** Ayodhya, Nandigram, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh), Sitamarhi, Buxar and Darbhanga (Bihar), Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh), Mahendragiri (Odisha), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Nashik and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Nagpur (Maharashtra), Bhadrachalam (Telangana), Hampi (Karnataka) and Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu).

- **Krishna Circuit:** Dwarka (Gujarat); Nathdwara, Jaipur and Sikar (Rajasthan); Kurukshetra (Haryana), Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Barsana, Nandgaon and Govardhan (Uttar Pradesh) and Puri (Odisha).

The details of projects sanctioned under the above thematic circuits are as under:—

			(₹ in crore)
Sl. No.	Name of State/ Year of sanction	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Uttar Pradesh (2016-17)	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur as Ramayana Circuit	69.45
2.	Uttar Pradesh (2017-18)	Development of Ayodhya under Ramayana Circuit	133.31
3.	Haryana (2016-17)	Development of Tourism Infrastructures at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra, Haryana under Krishna Circuit.	97.35
4.	Rajasthan (2016-17)	Integrated Development of Govind Dev ji temple (Jaipur), Khatu Shyam Ji (Sikar) and Nathdwara (Rajsamand) in Rajasthan under Krishna Circuit.	91.45

The projects sanctioned under the scheme have a gestation period of 18-36 months. All the above projects are under implementation.

(e) and (f) The State Governments/Union Territories identifies the projects under the above scheme and submit the same to the Ministry regularly for consideration. The projects under the schemes are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. No proposal has been received in the Ministry for the development of Sita Circuit.

In addition to Ramayana and Krishna Circuit, thirteen thematic circuits namely North-East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Tirthankar Circuit have been identified for development

of tourism infrastructure in the country including pilgrimage sites under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

The Ministry also has the PRASHAD scheme (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) for holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations in the country. Under the scheme, 25 sites/ cities have been identified for development.

Job creation along with development of tourism

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

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of new jobs can be created with the development of tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government for development of tourist places in the country; and

(c) the details of the new major tourism projects taken up by Government for tourism development in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism develops tourism related infrastructure and promotes India as a tourism destination to increase tourist arrivals which in turn creates job opportunities in the country.

(b) Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for developing 15 identified theme based tourist circuits and the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for developing 25 identified pilgrimage destinations.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of ₹ 95.67 crore for the Development of Coastal Circuit in Dakshin Kannada Distt., Uttar Kannada Distt. and Udupi Distt. in Karnataka under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Facilities for pilgrims in chardham of Uttarakhand

637. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to facilitate ease of travel and stay for pilgrims in the Chardham of Uttarakhand;

(b) whether Government is aware of the abject lack of basic facilities for pilgrims travelling to Panch Kedars, other than to Kedarnath, in Uttarakhand; and