

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