

**Including Tuticorin district in Tamil Nadu  
under Spiritual Tourism Circuit**

4309. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will come forward to include Tuticorin district in the State of Tamil Nadu under the existing 'Spiritual Tourism Circuit' in view of the fact that many pilgrimage centres including Tiruchendur Murugan temple are located in Tuticorin district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) The Ministry under its scheme of Swadesh Darshan-Integrated development of theme based tourist circuits provides Central financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations/Central agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Spiritual Circuit is one of the fifteen thematic circuits identified for development under the scheme.

**Special Area Games**

4310. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is implementing Special Area Games to identify sports talent among tribals and remote backward and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since how long this scheme is being implemented;

(c) the success that the Ministry could achieve in identifying talent and taking that talent to the international level;

(d) whether it is a fact that only 57 crores was provided in 2014-15 for this and this has been enhanced by just 4 crores in 2016-17;

(e) the details of RE for this in 2017-18 and 2018-19; and

(f) whether this amount of funds is sufficient for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Government of India through Sports Authority of India (SAI), is implementing Special Area Games