

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4146
ANSWERED ON 07.04.2022

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN TOURISM SECTOR

4146. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to highlight the significance of public-private partnership to improve infrastructure and tackle the problem of end connectivity, which negatively affect the experiences of international travellers; and
- (b) if so, the initiatives that have been taken/being taken by Government to promote public-private initiatives, and also to ensure that India follows best practices from across the world?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Tourism is essentially a multi-sectoral activity requiring linkages and coordination with various Ministries, Departments, State Governments/ UT Administrations and Private entities. Good infrastructure and connectivity is essential for providing enriching tourism experience to tourists. Ministry of Tourism is undertaking development of infrastructure at tourist sites/destinations/circuits. In addition, it is also giving due focus to improving connectivity to the tourist destinations to make them more accessible and provide a better tourism experience to the tourists visiting those sites.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 46 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by Ministry of Civil Aviation under the RCS UDAN-3 Scheme. 29 of these routes have been operationalized till date. Ministry of Tourism is extending financial support for the 46 identified tourism routes on the pattern of viability gap funding under the Champion Services Sector Scheme.

Ministry of Tourism had shared a list of 50 Tourism Destinations including Iconic Sites and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the first phase and subsequently of 114 routes/destinations in the second phase with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, State government and Border Road Organisation for improving road connectivity.

The Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Tourism are actively promoting cruise tourism in India for its vast economic impact, potential for job creation and earning foreign exchange. For promoting cruise tourism, a Task Force has been constituted with Secretary (Tourism) as the Chairman and Secretary (Shipping) as the Co-chairman. The Task Force consists of representatives from the ports, Ministries of Health, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Customs, CISF, Coastal States, etc. and meets regularly.

Ministry of Tourism is working with Ministry of Railways under the scheme of joint development of railway stations, under which 22 railway stations have been identified and sanctioned for development of tourist amenities.

Apart from these, the Ministry of Tourism is coordinating with the concerned line Ministries and also implementing projects for providing a better connectivity to the tourist destinations within the country through following mechanism:

- (i) Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Tourism Sector (IMCCTS) to facilitate resolution of Inter-Ministerial/Departmental issues involving the development of tourism and better connectivity to tourist destinations within the country.
- (ii) A task force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of India to address various issues related to tourism as per the recommendations of the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) for Tourism Sectoral Plan. The Task Force comprises representatives from the Ministries of Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Culture, DONER, Environment & Forest and IRCTC, ASI.

Most of the projects undertaken by line Ministries/Departments/Organisations are being implemented in public-private partnership mode.
