

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.456#
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

LACK OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA

456# SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL:

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

- (a) whether Government has made any plans to address the lack of basic facilities such as clean drinking water, sanitation and accommodation at tourist destinations in Raigad, Maharashtra;
- (b) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to develop better road connectivity and local transport networks to remote tourist destinations; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to improve public transport services to facilitate the movement of tourists and improve their experience?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): While development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration, the Ministry of Tourism through its ongoing schemes of Swadesh Darshan, and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' infrastructure Development' complements the efforts of the State Governments (SGs)/UT Administrations (UTs) by extending financial assistance to SGs/UTs for tourism infrastructure development. Under the components sanctioned under the scheme funds are also allocated for drinking water, toilets, waste management and last mile connectivity at tourist destinations.

Further, with a view to provide enhanced amenities and facilities for tourists, projects for joint development of tourist amenities at 22 railway stations by the Ministry of Railways (MoR) and Ministry of Tourism were sanctioned on cost sharing basis.

The proposals for projects at identified destinations are formulated and conceptualised by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Proposals are received from States/UTs from time to time for seeking financial assistance for development of tourist spots, under the various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism. Reviewing and sanctioning of the projects is an ongoing process and is done as per procedures and requirements stipulated in the scheme guidelines.

No Project has been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism for development of tourist destinations at Raigad, Maharashtra.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] is being implemented during the period from 2020-21 to 2025-

26, with the focus on Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability and to cover all the villages with solid and liquid waste management i.e. converting the villages from ODF to ODF Plus (Model). The scheme is being implemented rural areas of Country including Raigad district of Maharashtra. Tourist destinations in Raigad district are also covered under the programme. Also, under SBM(G), Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) are being constructed in Public places, market places, tourist places, highways, bus stands etc.

Development of Tourist accommodation units in the country is primarily undertaken by the private sector. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India only classifies accommodation units such as hotels, B&Bs/Homestays, Guesthouses etc. under its voluntary scheme of classification/approval of hotels.

Ministry of Tourism works closely with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways/National Highway Authority of India for improving road connectivity to tourist destinations, iconic sites and UNESCO World Heritage sites. Ministry of Tourism also coordinates with Ministry of Civil Aviation for improving the air connectivity to important tourist destination and to lesser known/new destinations with high potential.

As conveyed by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, it has undertaken the following two projects to enhance connectivity to tourist destinations in Raigad district in the state of Maharashtra.

- (i) Mahad to Raigad Fort section of NH-166F- A two-lane road with paved shoulders (2L+PS) leading to Raigad Fort, the capital of the Maratha Empire, is under implementation with 78.70% progress and completion in March 2025.
- (ii) Pacharal Mandangarh section of NH-965DD: A two-lane road with paved shoulders (2L+PS) leading to Ambadave, the childhood home of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, is under implementation with 79.07% progress and completion in March 2025.
