

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3515
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026**

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS

3515. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

SHRI MAHESH KASHYAP:

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lesser-known spiritual, eco, rural and heritage destinations, including Nizamabad, Basar, Dharmapuri, Kondagattu and forest-based circuits of Telangana have been identified for promotion under any scheme for sustainable tourism projects;**
- (b) the details of steps taken to diversify tourism, reduce pressure on overcrowded destinations and generate local employment;**
- (c) whether the Government is implementing any specific scheme or project for the overall development of Chhattisgarh, especially Bastar Lok Sabha Constituency's Chitrakot Waterfall, Tirathgarh Waterfall, Kanger Valley National Park, Kutumsar Cave, Danteshwari Temple and other natural, cultural, and tribal tourist sites to promote tourism infrastructure, eco-tourism, homestay, local handicrafts and cultural tourism;**
- (d) whether the Government has identified or proposes to support high-potential but relatively lesser-explored tourism destinations in Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam, Araku- Lambasingi, Gandikota, Papikondalu, Ahobilam and the Buddhist heritage circuit for integrated tourism infrastructure and destination development; and**
- (e) if so, the details of projects sanctioned, under implementation or proposed for such destinations along with the financial assistance provided and expected timelines?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Development and promotion of tourism including those of lesser-known destinations is primarily done by the concerned State Government (SG)/UT Administration (UTA). However, Ministry of Tourism under its various schemes such as Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) – an initiative under Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) etc. provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure and experiences in the country, to the SGs/UTAs, on receipt of the project proposals from them including proposal of development of lesser known destinations, in synergy with the scheme guidelines, Government directions, availability of funds, inter-se priority etc.

Further, under ‘Scheme for Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centers to Global Scale’, Government of India has sanctioned 40 Projects in the country for Rs.3295.76 Crore during financial year 2024-25. The parameters formulated for examining the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the States under this scheme covered connectivity to the site, existing tourism eco-system at site/destination, carrying capacity, availability of utility services, project impact and value envisaged which included expected increase in tourist footfall, increase tourist spend, new employment opportunities etc. Weightage was given to alternate destinations which address the issue of decongestion at major destination.

To address challenges such as overcrowding in high-footfall destinations and to improve tourist experience, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned various interventions under the above-mentioned schemes such as Queue management complex, waiting halls, Widening of approach roads, CCTVs for tourist safety, Parking, Tourist Information Centre, last-mile connectivity, solid waste management systems, illumination, sanitation, amenities centres, interpretation facilities etc.

Ministry of Tourism promotes tourism in a holistic manner including promotion of various tourism destinations and products of the country i.e. eco-tourism, homestay, local handicrafts and cultural tourism etc. through various medium including social media, websites and participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.

Details of the projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD and SASCI schemes in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana is annexed.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3515 ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026 REGARDING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS RAISED BY SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI, SHRI MAHESH KASHYAP AND SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU

(i) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, CBDD, SASCI, PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

S . No.	Name of the Project/Experience	Year of Sanction/ Category	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
Swadesh Darshan			
1.	Development of Kakinada - Hope Island - Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary -Passarlapudi - Aduru – S Yanam – Kotipally	2014-15	67.83
2.	Development of Nellore- Pulikat Lake - Ubblamadugu Water Falls – Nelapattu- Kothakoduru- Mypadu – Ramateertham – Iskapalli	2015-16	49.55
3.	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda Amravati- Anupu	2017-18	35.24
Swadesh Darshan 2.0			
1.	Development of Suryalanka Beach Experience	2024-2025	97.52
2.	Borra Cave Experience at Araku	2023-2024	29.88
CBDD			
1.	Enriching Buddhist Heritage and Cultural Experiences at Nagarjuna Sagar	2024-2025/ Culture & Heritage	25.00
2.	Development of Abhobilam as a Spiritual Odyssey at Ahobilam Temple	2024-2025/ Spiritual	25.00
SASCI			
1.	Enriching the Fort and Gorge Experience	2024-25	77.91

	in Gandikota		
2.	Akhanda Godavari- (Havelok Bridge & Pushkar Ghat) in Raja Mahendravaram	2024-25	94.44
PRASHAD			
1.	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination	2015-16	27.77
2.	Development of Srisailem Temple	2017-18	43.08
3.	Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam in Vishakhapatnam Temple	2022-23	54.04
4.	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure in Annavaram Temple Town	2024-25	25.33

(ii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, CBDD, SASCI, PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Chhattisgarh:

S. No.	Name of the Project/Experience	Year of Sanction/ Category	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
Swadesh Darshan			
1.	Development of Jashpur-Kunkuri-Mainpat-Kamleshpur - Maheshpur -Kurdar - Sarodhadadar-Gangrel-Kondagaon-Nathiyanaawagaon-Jagdarpur- Chitrakoot-Tirthgarh	2015-16	96.10
Swadesh Darshan 2.0			
1.	Bhoramdeo Corridor Development, Kawardha	2024-2025	146.00
CBDD			
1.	Development of Mayali Bagicha as Eco Tourism Destination at Mayali Bagicha	2024-25/ Ecotourism and Amrit Dharohar Sites	9.97
SASCI			
1.	Development of Chitrotpala Film City in Raipur	2024-25	95.79

2.	Development of Tribal & Cultural Convention Centre in Raipur	2024-25	51.87
PRASHAD			
1.	Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh	2020-21	48.44

(iii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, CBDD, SASCI, PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Telangana:

S. No.	Name of the Project/Experience	Year of Sanction/ Category	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
Swadesh Darshan			
1.	Development of Eco Tourism Circuit in Mahaboobnagar district	2015-16	91.62
2.	Development of Mulugu- Laknavaram-Medavaram-Tadvai-Damaravi-Mallur Bogatha Waterfalls	2016-17	79.87
3.	Development of Qutub Shahi Heritage Park- Paigah Tombs- Hayat Bakshi Mosque- Raymond's Tomb	2017-18	96.90
Swadesh Darshan 2.0			
1.	Eco tourism zone at Ananathgiri forest	2023-24	38.01
2.	Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone	2023-24	56.82
CBDD			
1.	Development of digital experience centre at Bhuddhavanam	2024-2025/ Culture & Heritage	24.85
2.	Development of Eco-Tourism Project at Nizam Sagar	2024-2025/ Ecotourism and Amrit Dharohar Sites	9.98
SASCI			
1.	Ramappa Region Sustainable Tourism Circuit in Ramappa	2024-25	73.74
2.	Somasilla Wellness & Spiritual Retreat in Nallamala	2024-25	68.10

PRASHAD			
1.	Development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Alampur	2020-21	38.90
2.	Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu	2022-23	62.00
3.	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam, Bhadradri Kothagudem District	2022-23	41.38
4.	Development of Basic Amenities at godde ss Renuka Yellama Devasthanam	2024-25	4.22
