

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2220
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM SECTOR

2220 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) the details of initiatives taken for development of tourism sector during the last five years;
- (b) whether development of rural tourism would generate employment opportunities and contribute to the growth of rural economy;
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken in West Bengal; and
- (d) whether any new destinations in that State have been identified for further development and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Identification, development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/Union Territory Administration (UTA). However, the Ministry of Tourism through its schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of SD2.0 and 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the SGs/UTAs; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by them, availability of funds, Government directions, inter-se priority etc. Under these schemes, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 76 projects for ₹5295.24 Crore under SD Scheme, 53 projects for ₹2207.08 Crore under SD2.0 scheme, and 37 projects for ₹687.99 Crore under CBDD initiative.

Government of India in 2024-25 sanctioned 40 projects in 23 states for ₹ 3295.76 crore under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)–Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale'.

In addition, during the financial year 2025-26, the Ministry has initiated 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA – JGUA) scheme as a part of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 to promote community-based tourism and sustainable livelihoods in tribal areas and has sanctioned 5 projects in five states for an amount of ₹ 17.52 Crore.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned one projects in West Bengal, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, namely, the Beach Circuit project covering Udaipur–Digha–Shankarpur–Tajpur–Mandarmani–Fraserganj–Bakkhali–Henry Island, for ₹67.99 crore in 2015-16, and the projects has been reported as physically completed by the implementing agency. Under the

PRASHAD Scheme One (1) project namely Development of Belur Math, in the year 2016-17 at the cost of Rs. 30.03 Crore in West Bengal was also sanctioned which stands completed.

The Ministry regularly encourages State Governments/ UT Administrations to engage with local communities and to ensure robust operation & management (O&M) of completed projects so as to increase footfall, generate local employment and enhance overall tourist satisfaction.
