

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.75
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN ANDHRA PRADESH

75 SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by Government to promote religious tourism in the State of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) the status of progress made in this regard so far;**
- (c) the details number of sites in the said State included under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme; and**
- (d) measures taken/being taken by the Government for the development of these sites?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism launched the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Scheme in 2014-15 with the objective of developing infrastructure at pre-identified religious and heritage sites across the country. Under the Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the development of tourism infrastructure at these sites. The Ministry has sanctioned 46 projects at a cost of Rs.1621.14 crore under the PRASAD Scheme.

The Ministry has sanctioned 3 projects in Andhra Pradesh: 'Development of Pilgrim Amenities at Amaravati,' 'Development of Srisailam Temple,' and 'Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam,' at the costs of Rs.27.77 crore, Rs.43.08 crore, and Rs.54.04 crore, respectively. Projects at Amaravati and Srisailam has been physically completed and Rs.13.69 crore has been released for the PRASHAD project in Simhachalam.

Additionally, 2 sites, 'Annaram, Kakinada District' and 'Vedagiri Lakshmi Narasimhawamy Temple, Nellore District,' have also been identified for development under the PRASAD Scheme.

A total of 3 projects have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme: 'Development of Kakinada - Hope Island - Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary - Passarlapudi - Aduru - S. Yanam - Kotipally,' 'Development of Nellore - Pulikat Lake - Ubbilamadugu Water Falls - Nelapattu - Kothakoduru - Mypadu - Ramateertham - Iskapalli,' and 'Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam - Bavikonda - Bojjanakonda - Amravati - Anupu,' at the costs of Rs.67.83 crore, Rs.49.55 crore, and Rs.35.24 crore, respectively, in Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, 2 destinations, Gandikota and Araku-Lambasingi, have been identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. Among these, Araku-Lambasingi has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.29.87 crore under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme.
