

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3269

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015

Identification of Tourist Places in Himachal Pradesh

Sharma Shri Ram Swaroop

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified such a place of tourist interest across the country particularly Himachal Pradesh which is suitable to be declared as international tourist place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to get the selected places of tourist interest in the country registered in the list of international places of tourist interest; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (e): The development, promotion and identification of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Himachal Pradesh for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched following two new plan schemes pursuant to the Budget 2014-15 announcements:

1) Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.

Twelve theme based circuits i.e. North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under "Swadesh Darshan".

2) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.

Under PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.

Both the schemes aim at enhancement of tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the identified circuit/destination.

Ministry of Tourism, however, does not have a policy for declaring any destination as an international tourist place. The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets.
