

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†336
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

IDENTIFICATION OF BUDDHIST CIRCUITS

†336. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified three buddhist circuits in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the schemes in operation in this regard;**
- (b) the amount of foreign currency received from foreign tourists in Government exchequer during the last three years; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide information and create awareness regarding the three Buddhist circuits in the country?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a): Buddhist Circuit has been identified as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme- Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits. All places associated with the Buddhist heritage in the country are covered under the Buddhist Circuit. The details of projects sanctioned under Buddhist circuit theme are as under:

(Amt. in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year of Sanction	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Madhya Pradesh	2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit in Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.	74.94
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit –	99.97

			Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilvastu in Uttar Pradesh.	
3.	Bihar	2016-17	Construction of Cultural Centre adjacent to Maya Sarovar on the western side at Bodhgaya, Bihar	98.73
4.	Gujarat	2017-18	Development of Buddhist circuit: Junagadh- Gir-Somnath- Bharuch- Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana in Gujarat under Swadesh Darshan scheme	35.99
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Thotlakonda- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda- Amravati- Anupu in Andhra Pradesh under the theme of Buddhist Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme	52.34
Total				361.97

(b): During the last three years Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism in India is as follows:

Year	FEE (Rs. in crore)
2015	135193
2016	154146
2017	180379

(c): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, undertakes several promotional activities in the domestic and international markets for promotion of the varied tourism products and destinations of the country including Buddhist Heritage, Sites and Circuits. The Ministry produce publicity material and collaterals in English and foreign languages for domestic and international markets; media campaigns in the print and electronic media are undertaken in the domestic and international markets; familiarisation tours for trade, media and opinion makers are undertaken from overseas to Buddhist Sites and Circuits in the country under the Hospitality Scheme of the Ministry. To create awareness about the Buddhist Sites/Heritage in the country, Ministry of Tourism organises International Buddhist Conclave every alternate year. The next International Buddhist Conclave is scheduled to be held in 2018.
