

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3005
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018**

DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

3005. SHRI B.V. NAIK:

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any plan for development of Buddhist circuit and heritage tourist places and cities related to Lord Buddha under Swadesh Darshan Scheme and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of Buddhist sites in the country and the steps taken for the development and promotion of these sites along with funds/grants allocated therefor during the last three years, State-wise;**
- (c) whether Buddhist circuit development project is under consideration of the Government along with the criteria for selecting tourist centres sites under the project;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time limit fixed for the development of Buddhist circuit; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to develop Buddhist circuit by including Buddhist sites in Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh in the said circuit and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme has identified Buddhist circuit as one of the thematic circuits for development in the country. All sites in the country associated with Buddhism are covered under this circuit.

The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. Based on above criteria, Ministry has sanctioned following projects under Buddhist Circuit theme:

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State/ Sanction Year	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned
1.	Madhya Pradesh 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit in Sanchi- Satna- Rewa- Mandsaur- Dhar	74.94
2.	Uttar Pradesh 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Srawasti- Kushinagar- Kapilvastu	99.97
3.	Bihar 2016-17	Construction of Convention Centre adjacent to Maya Sarovar on the western side at Bodhgaya	98.73
4.	Gujarat 2017-18	Development of Buddhist circuit: Junagadh- Gir- Somnath- Bharuch- Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	35.99
5.	Andhra Pradesh 2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Thotlakonda- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda- Amravati- Anupu	52.34
Total			361.97

All the above projects are at various stages of implementation.

In addition to above, Ministry 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 produces 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. Ministry is in the process of printing a map and thematic film on Buddhist sites in the country.

With the objective of showcasing Buddhist heritage and pilgrim sites of India and give wide publicity to the core Buddhist circuits to create awareness of Buddhist heritage in the country Ministry of Tourism organizes International Conclave on Buddhism every alternate year which is attended by Tour Operators, Travel Agents, Media Representatives, Scholars, Monks from all over the world. Ministry is organising International Buddhist Conclave in India from 23rd to 26th August, 2018.
