

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4309
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

INITIATIVE TO PROPAGATE VALUE OF BUDDHISM AND JAINISM

4309. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to propagate the values of Jainism and Buddhism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in this regard, State/UT-wise particularly in Odisha;

(c) whether the Government has implemented any special scheme for the conservation and upgradation/preservation of Jain and Buddhist heritage sites in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise particularly in Odisha;

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Government so far for the development of Jain and Buddhist pilgrimage sites; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to launch any new initiative to promote the philosophy, education and research of these religions in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise particularly in Odisha?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) and (b): To propagate the values of Jainism and Buddhism in the country, various initiatives are being undertaken by the Government of India, which are as under:

I. Initiatives to promote the Buddhism:

- In the month of March, 2024, the M/o Minority Affairs laid the foundation stone for 38 projects with a total estimated cost of Rs. 225.00 crore under Buddhist Development Plan under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and the Union Territory of Ladakh. The projects aim to promote Buddhism and the secularization of traditional theological education. Out of the total projected amount, an allocation of Rs. 85.00 crore has been made to the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh, U.T. Ladakh, for the construction of school buildings, a new academic building for traditional courses, and

souvenir shops. An amount of Rs. 14.50 crore has been earmarked for the construction of Training-cum-Examination Centres for Leh and Kargil. Rs. 30.00 crore has been allocated for strengthening the Centre for Advanced Studies in Buddhist Studies at the University of Delhi, to promote academic collaboration, research, language preservation, and skill upgradation of the Buddhist population. Rs. 40.00 crore has been allocated for the Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS).

- In addition, Government had sanctioned projects worth Rs.361.97 crore under the Buddhist Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Government and Union Territory for the development of these circuits.

II. Initiatives to promote the Jainism:-

- The Central Government granted the status of minority religion to the Jains during the year 2014 placing them in equal footing with other minorities.
- Programme to commemorate 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav on 21.04.2024 was organized in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs approved project under PMJVK Scheme for 'Establishment of Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwa Vidyalaya (DAVV), Indore Campus to undertake preservation and promotion of Jain Heritage, fostering interdisciplinary research in the field. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 25 crore for the preservation and conservation of Jain culture, including the digitization of Jain manuscripts, widespread knowledge sharing of Jain traditions and customs, promoting interdisciplinary research on Jain literature, preserving the language through digitization of manuscripts, and community outreach through hubs, among other activities.

In addition, four autonomous organizations are working under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India:

- i. Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh (Deemed To Be University)
- ii. Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar (Deemed To Be University)
- iii. Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath (Deemed To Be University)
- iv. Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Dahun, Arunachal Pradesh

Ministry of Culture also provides annual grants-in-aid for the upkeep and maintenance of the following six Grantee Bodies for promoting Buddhist/Tibetan Culture and Art:

- i. Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamshala
- ii. Tibet House, New Delhi
- iii. Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh
- iv. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim
- v. International Buddhist Confederation, Delhi
- vi. GRL Monastic School, Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh

Besides, two financial grant schemes are also being implemented by the Ministry of Culture for the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture and tradition as well as the preservation of cultural heritage of Himalayas:

- i. **Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture & Art:** Under this scheme, Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including Monasteries and NGOs engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture and tradition, located anywhere in the country, are given financial assistance. The details of funds to various states under the scheme is at **Annexure-I**.
- ii. **Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas:** The objective of the scheme is to promote, protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayan region including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh through research, documentation, and dissemination. Financial assistance is provided to institutions & voluntary organizations working for this purpose. The details of funds to various states under the scheme is at **Annexure-II**.

(c) and (d): Under a convergence model to address the economic, social and cultural deficits being encountered by otherwise neglected minority communities, a Buddhist Development Program (BDP) was launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs as a pilot initiative which addresses the diverse needs of the Buddhist population and advances their social and economic progress. The plan also includes infrastructural development in various sectors like Education, Health, Sports Renewable Energy etc. through this project and cover majorly the Himalayan Belt starting from Ladakh to Sikkim. The respective States/UTs/CGOs implement and supervise the projects.

(e): Government of India has declared “Pali” as a classical language on 04.10.2024, which has several benefits for the Buddhist Community and India’s cultural heritage. Pali, the sacred language of Theravada Buddhism, is the language of the Buddha’s sermons.

Jain Agams are the Holy books for Jains. They are originally in Prakrit language which is supposed to be language of Teerthankara’s. The Central Government has recognized Prakrit language as one of the Classical languages of India on 04.10.2024.

The declarations of Pali and Prakrit languages will enhance their study in educational institutions, fostering greater understanding and preservation of Buddhist & Jainism traditions.

13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	5	29	4	30.00	1	5.00
14	Maharashtra	3	15	11	38.25	14	41.00	4	13.24
15	Manipur	0	0	2	5.5	3	9.50	1	3.00
16	Odissa	0	0	1	5	2	12.00	2	11.00
17	Punjab	0	0	2	8.5	2	10.00		
18	Sikkim	2	37.5	0	0	12	89.93	2	24.70
19	Tripura	10	82.91	7	37.5	7	41.5	17	97.20
20	Tamil Nadu	1	5	0	0	2	10.00		
21	Telangana	0	0	2	22.5	3	30.00		
22	Uttarakhand	34	310.8	26	252.42	5	35.50	25	253.72
23	Uttar Pradesh	19	110.31	27	195.28	11	44.15	16	120.11
24	West Bengal	12	40.22	72	168	92	175.51	19	30.98
Total		366	2251.17	401	2601.00	330	1557.36	244	1611.96

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4309 FOR ANSWER ON 26.03.2025 REGARDING 'INITIATIVE TO PROPAGATE VALUE OF BUDDHISM AND JAINISM' ASKED BY SHRI ANANTA NAYAK

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

S. No.	State	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		No. of cases	Amount released	No. of cases	Amount released	No. of cases	Amount released	No. of cases	Amount released till date
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	32	103.50	41	117.95	32	77.00	5	13.56
2.	Sikkim	6	16.50	4	10.00	3	11.00		
3.	Himachal Pradesh	37	90.25	42	98.52	40	97.50	2	5.99
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	43	73.25	69	117.02	24	37.52		
5.	Ladakh	6	18.00	11	34.00	2	5.50		
6.	Uttarakhand	79.00	171.97	58.00	91.24	48.00	64.00	2	3.50
7.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.75
	Total	203	473.47	225	468.73	149	292.52	10	24.80
