

Museum for Remains of Ancient Buddhist Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

2394. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several ancient Buddhist monuments are found in Ghantasala Village, Divi Taluk, Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has collected about 50 Sculptural pieces and kept in a rented building by posting few attendants to protect the pieces and purchased a site measuring 70 cents for construction of a Museum; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard and also the efforts made to continue the excavatory work to bring out more details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India has so far collected 62 loose sculptures lying in and around the village Ghantasala and housed them in a rented building. Necessary land for constructing a Site Museum has been acquired.

(c) Plans for the Museum building are under scrutiny. Recent excavations at Patidibba, South-west of village Ghantasala have brought to light Buddhapada (symbolic representation of the Buddha in the form of his carved foot-prints) besides structural and architectural remains associated with Buddhism.

Steps Taken to Promote Tourism during Sixth Plan in West Bengal

2395. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps the Union Government had taken during the Sixth Five Year Plan period to promote Tourism in West Bengal; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism is a continuous process. During the Sixth Five Year Plan the Department provided financial assistance for the following schemes in West Bengal :

1. Construction of cottages at Ajodhya hills.
2. Construction of trekkors huts in the Sandakphu-Phalut region.
3. Provision of trekking equipment.
4. Celebration of BAUL fair at Kanduvilla.
5. Flood-lighting of Terracota temples in Vishnupur.
6. Construction of a barge for providing accommodation to tourists at Sunderbans.
7. Purchase of a motor launch at Sunderbans.
8. Purchase of a mini bus at Jaldapara.
9. Provision of boats at Rabinder Sarover and Mirik lake.
10. Augmentation of facilities at the Airport Hotel and Transport Unit at Calcutta by ITDC.

As part of promotional activities, the Department through ITDC produces publicity material including films etc. on various States including West Bengal. Under the Hospitality programme Department invites travel writers travel, agents/tour operators to visit important places including West Bengal. These people on their return publicise places visited by them in the overseas markets.

Setting up of Small Nuclear Power Station in the Country

2396. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the only country designed in setting up small nuclear power stations in the capacity range of 235 Megawatt;