

*[English]***Vaishali-The International Tourist Centre**

472. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:  
SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had planned for creating/encouraging the tourist circuit in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of tourist circuit covering all the Buddhist places of the state;

(c) whether the sacred Asthikalasha of Lord Buddha kept in the museum of Patna has been found in Vaishali which is considered to be an International Tourist Centre as it has been the first Lichhvi republic of the world and the work place as well as birthplace of Lord Buddha;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal of the Government for covering Vaishali and Sitamarhi being the birthplace of Sitaji;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (f) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the state Government/UT Administrations and the availability of funds.

The places covered in the Buddhist circuit in Bihar include Patna, Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. Some of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in the Buddhist circuit in Bihar during 8th plan and 1997-98 are Tourist Reception Centre at Bodhgaya, Yatrika at Gaya, Vaishali Mohotsav, Rajgir Festival, Tourist Complex at Vaishali, development of Temple premises, Rajgir.

The Government has entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for the development of Infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist Travel Circuit in Bihar. The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund financial assistance is to the tune of Rs. 249.14 crores for the development of tourism infrastructure in Buddhist circuits of Bihar covering Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.

*[Translation]***Coal India Limited**

473. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees were working in Coal India Limited before its nationalisation;

(b) the number of employees were working in it after one decade of nationalisation and the total number at present;

(c) the per ton price of different categories of Coal before the nationalisation of coal mines and the present price thereof;

(d) the number of times the prices of coal has been increased after nationalisation; and

(e) the extent of increase in coal production capacity and efficiency after nationalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The number of employees working in Coal India Ltd., as on 1.5.1973, i.e. on the date of nationalisation of non-coking coal mines, after one decade i.e. 1.4.1983 and as on 1.4.1998 were as follows:

As on 1.5.1973	As on 1.4.1983	As on 1.4.1998
5,21,167	6,46,318	6,11,689

(c) The prices of different grades of coal before nationalisation are given below:

Non-coking Coal (as on 30.1.1973):

Grade	(Rs. per tonne)	
	Steam	Slack
I	34.26	33.23
II	31.59	30.54
IIIA	30.04	29.06
IIIB	28.89	27.89
Coking Coal (as on 19.10.1971) :		
Special Steel Grade		45.00
Steel Grade I		42.09
Steel Grade II		39.87
Washery Grade I		38.48
Washery Grade IIA		37.35
Washery Grade IIB		36.23