

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CULTURE AND HERITAGE
AKHILESH SINGH;RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to promote tourism at places linked to Buddhist culture and heritage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any task force has been constituted under Director-General, Tourism for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the recommendations made by the task force and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. In order to promote tourism at places linked to the Buddhist Culture and Heritage, the Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has identified the following circuits for development, during the current financial year :

(i) Eastern Region - (Buddhist Circuit) Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi. Besides, the following circuits have also been identified which include Buddhist sites ;

(i) Northern Region - (Himalayan Circuit) Route I - Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh Route II - Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(ii) Central Circuit - (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat)

(c) & (d): Ministry of Tourism had appointed a Task Force in 1986 to identify the places associated with life of Lord Buddha in Bihar and UP for development of infrastructure. The Addl Dir. Gen. (T) was the Convenor. To identify Buddhist Centres in other State for development, another task force was constituted in June 1987 with Addl. Dir. Gen.(T) as its Chairman.

The Task Force made several recommendations including improvements at places of tourist interest connected with the life of Lord Buddha in various States. The Deptt. of Tourism has identified the above mentioned circuits for development.