

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:866

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004

PACKAGE FOR RELIGIOUSTOURISM

Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for special package on religious tourism is under the consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the number religious places, organised and unorganised which can be brought under this package;
- (d) if so, whether through religious tourism Government can earn foreign exchange;
- (e) the amount of Government's investment in these places;
- (f) whether the Government have prepared any plan for development of all important religious places; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)(SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a), (b) & (c): Formulation of tourist packages is primarily the responsibility of the tourism industry viz. tour operators and travel agents. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India does not formulate any tourist packages.

(d): International Tourism including religious tourism can earn foreign exchange for the country.

(e), (f) & (g): The development of tourist sites including religious tourist places, is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Central Financial Assistance is offered to the State Governments and Union Territories for development of tourist sites which include religious places.