

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2145
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
BUILDING INDIAN BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN CHINA
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has an opportunity to build the first Indian Buddhist temple in China;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the extent to which Indian heritage is likely to be boosted in China as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to construct an Indian-style Buddhist Temple in Luoyang, China was finalized with the conclusion of a Memorandum to this effect during the visit of the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005. Under this Memorandum, the Indian side would provide Rupees Five Crores to the Chinese side for the construction of the Temple, in addition to providing the Buddha idol and other accompanying material. The Indian side is also responsible for the architectural design of the Temple project, its blueprint, material specifications and landscape planning, as also architectural and expert supervision during the construction work. The Chinese side will provide land and also undertake the construction work. The design and the architect for the project have been selected by an Advisory Committee constituted by the Prime Minister. The construction work to be undertaken by the Chinese side is expected to begin in 2006.

(c) It is expected that the Temple, once completed, will become an enduring symbol of the centuries-old cultural exchanges between India and China, of which Buddhism is an important and integral part.