

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4235  
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006  
FACILITIES TO PILGRIMS AT VAISHNO DEVI  
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) the number of pilgrims visited Vaishno Devi during each of the last three years; and
- (b) the financial assistance provided by the Government for further development and providing more facilities to the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a): The number of tourists visiting Vaishno Devi for the last three years is as follows:

Year Total Arrivals

2003	5400296
2004	6109895
2005	6451998

- (b): Identification of places of tourist interests/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However the Department of Tourism Government of India, provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grants of Central Financial Assistance every year for tourism infrastructure development after detailed consultations with State Governments/UT Administrations and subject to availability of funds under the respective head during a specific year.

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.125.00 lakh for Construction/Improvement of Drainage in Katra during 2003-04.