

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1403
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
BUDDHIST TOURIST CIRCUIT
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have launched a Buddhist Tourist Circuit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the success so far registered in this venture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): A fully air-conditioned train with on-board/off-board catering and house keeping arrangements, road transfer by Air Conditioned vehicles, sightseeing, Darshan, visit to holy places, etc. facilities is scheduled to run as Maha Parinirvan Special covering Lumbini, Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Kushinagar, Nalanda, Sravasti and also Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri in Agra w.e.f. 28.03.07. Indian Railway Tourism & Catering Corporation (IRCTC) has planned to run 11 trips during 2007 and other 6 trips in 2008 upto March (depending on its reception) with each trip having a duration of 8 days. The option of undertaking partial journey for a minimum duration of 3 nights is also available to the passengers.

(c): For its successful run IRCTC has made all out efforts for marketing, wide publicity & enquiry redressel system.