

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2007
FACILITIES FOR VAISHNO DEVI PILGRIMS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government and the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir bear any expenditure for providing facilities to Vaishno Devi pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details of the expenditure incurred during last three years and till date;
- (c) the number of the pilgrims benefited during the above mentioned period;
- (d) the details of the facilities provided to pilgrims by the Government;
- (e) whether there is any proposal of the Government to provide more facilities to the pilgrims; and
- (f) if so the details thereof and the estimated expenditure thereon?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): Identification of places of tourist interests/spots including pilgrimage places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry 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 Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned Rs.125.00 lakh for construction/improvement of drainage in Katra during 2003-04.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir established Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. This Board undertakes developmental activities like construction of path and railings to the Shrine, accommodation, wayside amenities, toilets, sanitation, eating places etc.

The number of Tourist visiting Vaishno Devi for the last three years are as follows:

Year	Tourist arrivals
2004	6109895
2005	6251998
2006	6950573
2007 (till August)	4700080