

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5141

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010

VAISHNO DEVI PILGRIMS

Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Sinha Shri Shatrughan

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

- (a) whether the Union Government and Jammu and Kashmir State Government bear any expenses for providing facilities to Vaishno Devi pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the estimated number of pilgrims benefitted therefrom during the said period;
- (d) the details of the facilities provided by the Government alongwith the total expenditure incurred thereon till date;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide more facilities to the pilgrim; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of funds likely to be spent thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a): The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has informed that the State Government bears expenses for providing various facilities to Vaishno Devi pilgrims such as tourist reception centre which provide all kind of information to the pilgrims to facilitate their visit to various places of tourist interest and their stay etc.

(b): The details of expenditure made by the State Government during the last three years is as under:

Year Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)  
Plan Non-Plan Total

2007	57.88	41.37	99.25
2008	6.75	46.10	52.85
2009	51.42	56.80	108.22
Total	116.05	144.27	260.32

(c): As per assessment made by the State Government, 222.89 lakh pilgrims visited Vaishno Devi during the last three years.

(d): The Tourism Department of the State Government has established Tourist Reception Centres at Railway Stations of Jammu, Airport and Jammu and Katra to guide the pilgrims who are visiting the State. The cumulative expenditure made during the last three years is Rs. 260.32 lakh.

(e) & (f): Development, promotion, implementation and monitoring of tourism projects is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under various schemes for tourism projects which are complete as per scheme guidelines and identified in consultation with the State Government. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 132.74 crores during 10th Plan and Rs. 159.52 crores during 11th Plan to Jammu and Kashmir Government for Infrastructure Projects, Fairs and Festivals, Information Technology and Rural Tourism Projects.