

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
BUDDHA TEMPLES AND HERITAGE SITES
Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote Uttar Pradesh's Buddha Temples and heritage sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM(SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a), (b) & (c): Development and promotion of tourism including Buddhist and the heritage sites is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides Central Financial Assistance to the project proposals identified in consultation with them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority under various schemes of the Ministry.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned central financial assistance of Rs.117.39 crore for 34 Tourism Projects during 11th Plan including current financial year for Government of Uttar Pradesh. This includes Destination Development of Varanasi-Sarnath-Ramnagar, Phase-II.

Apart from this, a loan agreement has been signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Government of India on March 31, 2005 for Uttar Pradesh Buddhist Circuit Development project. The scope of the project covers improvement of roads, public utilities, site development and support programmes etc. at selected Buddhist sites in Uttar Pradesh.