

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011

BUDDHIST CIRCUITS

Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad; Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments including Bihar for granting approval to a comprehensive scheme for development of the major centres of the Buddhist circuit in the country including Vaishali in Bihar and Shrawasti in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government is likely to accord approval to the said proposals?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Development and promotion of tourism projects including Buddhist Circuits is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory (UTs) Administrations. Ministry of Tourism (MOT), however, provides financial assistance for development of tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. Tourism projects to be funded by MOT are generally decided in the prioritisation meetings held with State/UTs.

State Government of Bihar submitted a proposal for Development of Vaishali Comprehensive Heritage Zone seeking Central Financial Assistance of Rs.127.00 Crores. As this project was not prioritised and there is no scheme in the MOT to sanction such a large mega project, it has not been sanctioned.

The details of projects sanctioned for development of Buddhist destinations in Bihar are given in the Annexure.