

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1495
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
DEVELOPMENT OF PILGRIMAGE PLACES
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign and domestic visitors and devotees numbering in lakhs throng the five dhams (pilgrimage plac
(e) of Amarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath;
(b) if so, whether they face enormous difficulties in traveling, lack of lodging facilities and cleanliness and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has any scheme for the development of major cultural centres and ancient places and to provide facilities for such people; and
(d) if so, the details including the facilities provided by the Government through various schemes to the visitors and devotees at these places/sites?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) Amarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath are not declared as monuments of national importance and as such do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has informed that it also does not compile data on number of tourist visits to above mentioned pilgrimage places. However, the number of domestic and foreign tourists to the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakahand are as under:

(figures in lakhs)

State 2009 2010 2011 (Provisional)

	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
Jammu & Kashmir	92.35	0.54	99.73	0.48	130.72	0.72
Uttarakahand	219.35	1.06	302.06	1.27	259.46	1.25

(b) to (d) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/U.T. Administration/Central Government Agencies for the development of tourism infrastructure for better facilities to the visiting tourists under the following schemes:

- i. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
- ii. Large Revenue Generating Project
- iii. Assistance to Central Agencies for Infrastructure Development
- iv. Computerisation and Information Technology
- v. Capacity Building for Service Providers

Further, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has made efforts for improving the facilities for foreign and domestic tourists which include, creation/upgradation of tourism infrastructure, wayside amenities, providing last mile connectivity, increasing the availability of budget accommodation and trained manpower.