

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:397  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012  
BUDDHIST CIRCUITS  
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified Buddhist Circuits for the development of tourism in certain States including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas selected, criteria adopted therefor and project works undertaken/proposed to be undertaken, State/UT-wise including Bihar;
- (c) the amount of funds released and utilized out of the funds sanctioned in this regard; and
- (d) the mechanism put in place by the Government for monitoring and review of such projects along with the action to be taken for implementation of the said scheme in certain new areas including Vaishali (Kolhua) in Bihar?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. +397 ANSWERED ON 07.09.2012 REGARDING BUDDHIST CIRCUITS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Tourism has appointed a National Level Consultant (NLC) to identify spiritual tourism circuits, including Buddhist Circuits, for integrated development, during the 12th Plan period, in association with the States / Union Territories (UT).

The list of Buddhist Circuits identified, on the basis of their tourism potential, in consultation with States and stakeholders, by NLC are given below:

i. Dharmayatra Circuit: Bodh Gaya (Bihar) – Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) – Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh) – Piparvah (Uttar Pradesh) ii. Extended Dharmayatra Circuit: Bodh Gaya (Bihar) – Nalanda (Bihar)– Rajgir (Bihar)– Patna (Bihar)– Vaishali (Bihar)– Vikramshila (Bihar) – Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) – Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh) – Kapilvastu (Uttar Pradesh) – Sankisa (Uttar Pradesh) – Piparvah (Uttar Pradesh)

While identifying the designated circuits efforts have been made to plug infrastructure gaps and provide better amenities to tourists.

(c): No funds have been sanctioned so far to the States/UTs for the identified Circuits.

(d): The States/UTs have set-up respective State Level Monitoring Committees (SLMCs) to regularly review the progress of tourism infrastructure projects. Ministry of Tourism also monitors the implementation of projects through Regional Conferences, field inspections by the officers of the Ministry and periodical review meetings with the State/UT officers. State Governments/UT Administration are required to submit reports of the State Level Monitoring Committees to the Ministry of Tourism periodically.