

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:901  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013  
FACILITIES TO VAISHNO DEVI PILGRIMS  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Union Government and the State of Jammu and Kashmir bear any expenses in providing facilities to Vaishno Devi Pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the expense made in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the estimated number of pilgrims visited during the said period;
- (d) the details of the facilities made available to the pilgrims by the Union Government and the expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Union Government to provide more facilities to the pilgrims?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI)

(a): Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs.269.37 crore for Development of various projects in Jammu & Kashmir in the last three years.

In addition to the above, State Government has informed that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, under its programs viz. Special Area Demonstration Programme (SADP) and Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) also provide financial assistance for providing facilities to Vaishno Devi pilgrims. The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir also provides financial assistance alongwith the Shrine Board for providing facilities to Vaishno Devi pilgrims.

(b): As per the State Government, in respect of the above projects which are partially funded by the Central/State Government, a total of Rs. 37.50 lakh has been released by the Union Government. Out of Rs.37.50 lakh, Rs.12.50 lakh and Rs.25.00 lakh have been spent during 2010-11 and 2012-13 respectively.

The State Government informs that the amount of Rs.6.83 lakh incurred on water supply project is funded in equal proportions by the State Government and the Shrine Board.

(c): As per the State Government, estimated number of pilgrims that visited Vaishno Devi from 2009 to 2012 is as given below:

Year	Number of pilgrims (In lakh)
------	------------------------------

2009	82.34
------	-------

2010	87.49
------	-------

2011	101.15
------	--------

2012	104.95
------	--------

(d) & (e): Development, Promotion and implementation of tourism projects at identified tourism spots including the locations through which major rivers pass is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. The projects which are in accordance with the scheme guidelines are sanctioned subject to availability of funds and inter- se priority.