

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4289
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
RENOVATION OF VARANASI GHATS IN U.P.
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had sanctioned any tourism project for the renovation and beautification of Varanasi Ghats in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds sanctioned and utilisation reported thereunder;
- (c) whether the Varanasi Ghats are still in dilapidated condition and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has sanctioned more funds for fixing of the present condition of these ghats;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including funds released so far;and
- (f) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects in the year 2002-03 and 2004-05 under 10th Plan period for development works of ghats at Varanasi. The projects are completed in the sanctioned amount of Rs.493.78 lakh with 100% utilization of funds released to State Government. The details of the projects are as given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
--------	---------------------	-------------------

1.	Development of Rajendra Ghat and Dashashmegh Ghat at Varanasi	29.00
----	---	-------

2.	Extension and Development of Assi Ghat at Varanasi	464.78
----	--	--------

Total		493.78
-------	--	--------

(c) Maintenance and upgradation of Varanasi Ghats is the responsibility of the State Government.

(d) & (e) Development, Promotion and Implementation of tourism projects is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. The projects which are complete as per scheme guidelines are sanctioned subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. However, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs.401.32 lakh with release

of Rs.321.06 lakh in 2012-13 for Construction of one of the Varanasi Ghats namely Garwa ghat on left bank of river Ganga.

(f) Timely completion of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the same is taken up with them during review meetings and field inspections by officers of the Ministry.