

**Title:** Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Karnataka for development of tourism in the State.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA (DAVANGERE ): In a bid to give new fillip to tourism in Karnataka, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has held talks with the Union Tourism Minister and had urged him to grant special financial assistance to promote tourism in the State. He had also stressed the Union Government that the State is showing special interest in tourism industry which has put neighbouring Kerala on the world map as an attractive tourist destination.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, therefore, has urged the Union Minister during his visit to Delhi in the month of February, 2002, along with other senior officials to sanction special assistance to promote tourism in the world heritage centre of Hampi as well as Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal, Jog etc. The Union Government had also sent senior officials to visit those places in the month of February, 2002.

I hope and trust that the Union Government has received their report and I, therefore, urge that immediate necessary Central aid should be provided for tourism projects.

-----