

SIXTY-SEVENTH REPORT ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1988-89)

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

D

**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM
(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) –DEVELOPMENT
MAJOR BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE CENTERS**

[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained
in the Sixty-Third Report of Estimates Committee
(Eighth Lok Sabha)]

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 30 March, 1989)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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(1988-89)**

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**STUDY GROUP ON ACTION TAKEN REPORTS OF
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(1988-89)**

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- 8. Dr. Manoj Pandey**
- 9. Shri Ram Singh Yadav**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this Sixty-Seventh Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Third Report of the Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)—Development of Major Buddhist Pilgrimage centres.

2. The Sixty-Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1988. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 25th November, 1988. The replies were examined and the draft report was adopted by the Estimates Committee at their sitting held on 16th March, 1989.

3. The Report has been divided into following Chapters :—

- (i) Report
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.
- (v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Sixty-Third Report of Estimates Committee (Eight Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed that out of 26 recommendations made in the Report 21 recommendations *i.e.* about 80 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee have desired not to pursue 1

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recommendation in view of Government's reply *i.e.* about 4 percent. Replies have not been accepted in respect of 3 recommendations *i.e.* about 12 per cent. Final reply of Government in respect of 1 recommendation *i.e.* about 4 per cent is still awaited.

NEW DELHI ;
March 28, 1989
7, Chaitra, 1911 (S)

ASUTOSH LAW
Chairman,
Estimates Committee

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1. This Report of the Estimates Committee deals with Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixty-Third Report (8th Lok Sabha) on the Development of Major Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1988.

1.2. Action Taken Notes have been received in respect of all the recommendations contained in the Report. These Notes have been categorised as follows :—

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government ;

Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.

(Total 21—Chapter)

- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies ;

Sl. No. 18.

(Total 1—Chapter III)

- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee ;

Sl. Nos. 5, 7, 20.

(Total 3—Chapter IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited ;

Sl. No. 14.

(Total 1—Chapter V)

1.3. The Committee will now deal with action taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

*Collection of Tourist Statistics***Recommendation, Sl. No. 3 (Para 1.36)**

1.4. The Committee had found that there was considerable scope for attracting Buddhist tourist traffic not only from within the country but also from abroad. The Task Force appointed by the Government to determine the infrastructural requirements of Buddhist Centres had also envisaged considerable growth in the domestic as well as foreign tourist traffic to various Buddhist Centres by the end of Seventh Plan. Although this information suggested a happy trend in the growth of the tourist traffic to Buddhist Centres in the country, the Committee expressed regret that all these conjectures were based on rough estimates only as admitted by the Ministry that "systematic collection of tourist statistics has not yet been taken up by many State Governments". Huge variations in the figures of visitors to various centres, furnished by the Ministry for the years 1982 to 1985, were clearly indicative of this malady. The Ministry had, however, evolved a format for collection of figures on scientific lines on which the State Governments were expected to furnish the statistics. While the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had started furnishing data as per the specified format, the State Government of Bihar had only 'promised' to do so. The Committee, in this connection, desired the Ministry to examine whether the allocation of funds from the Central budget could be linked with the maintenance and submission of tourist statistics as per the format specified for the purpose, by the State Governments as, in their opinion, this might induce the State Governments to do the needful.

1.5. In their reply, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism stated that the Ministry had considered the feasibility of linking up the procedure of financial assistance to the State Governments for tourism projects with the submission of tourist statistics as per the format specified. In view of the fact that a number of States were still not having a proper machinery for the collection of tourist statistics and were not attuned to such items of work, they were likely to take more time for reaching the acceptable standards. The Ministry viewed that it would not therefore, be prudent to stop the financial assistance to such State Governments in toto as it would badly affect the infrastructural development programmes. However, the pressure of stopping financial assistance could be applied on a selective basis. The Secretary (Tourism) had already addressed a letter to this effect to all the defaulting States.

1.6. The Committee note with concern that a number of States are not having proper machinery for the collection of tourist statistics. They are of the opinion that without systematic collection of these statistics, proper planning for creation of infrastructural and other facilities would not be possible with the result that allocation of funds and the estimates prepared in this regard would be on the basis of conjectures or rough guess. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the State Governments should be asked to create proper machinery for collection of statistics of tourist traffic and submission of the same as per the format evolved for the purpose by the Ministry and would like them to prepare a time bound programme for the completion of the above task as regular flow of reliable statistics is a basic necessity for drawing up plans for the development of places of tourist interest. They would like to be apprised of further development in this regard.

Allocation of Funds

Recommendation, Sl. No. 5 (Para 2.12)

1.7. The Committee had found that while during the Sixth Five Year Plan, out of the total allocation of Rs. 997.85 lakhs an amount of 91.41 lakhs, which came to 9.16 per cent of the total allocation, was spent on development of Buddhist Centres during Seventh Plan, out of the total allocation of Rs. 1954.80 lakhs, an amount of only Rs. 43.75 lakhs, which came to only 2.23 per cent (expenditure upto October, 1987) had been spent on these centres. The Committee drew an inevitable conclusion that the decline in expenditure indicated lack of adequate attention being paid to the development of this 'sector' by either the State Governments due to delay in finalisation and submission of their proposals to the Ministry of Tourism or delay in execution of the scheme which had been approved and sanctioned. The Committee expressed serious concern that, while there was an all round emphasis on development of Buddhist sector in view of its abundant tourist potential and two Task Forces had been set up by the Government to identify areas which needed early development, there was lack of adequate enthusiasm on the part of concerned Central/State authorities to accelerate the process of development. The Committee desired the Ministry/respective State Governments to take urgent corrective measures for faster development of facilities in this sector.

1.8. The Ministry in their reply stated that within limited resources, every effort was being made by the Central Government and the State Governments concerned to accelerate the process of development in the Buddhist centres identified in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, it had been possible to procure external assistance worth about Rs. 100.00 crores under the Indo-Japanese Technical Cooperation for development of infrastructure and other facilities in Buddhist Centres of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As regards total allocation of funds during Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, the figure for the Sixth Plan was for the full Plan period (*i.e.* for five years) whereas the figure for the Seventh Five Year Plan pertained to only first two years of the Plan period. Hence, any comparison between funds allocated during the Sixth Plan and the Seventh Plan would not be a fair one.

1.9. The Committee are not satisfied with the above reply of the Government. In their original report, they had not compared allocations made in Sixth and Seventh Plans but had expressed serious concern that very meagre amounts had been actually spent against allocations during the Sixth and Seventh Plans. While during the Sixth Plan period only 9.16 per cent *i.e.* Rs. 91.41 lakhs out of the total allocation of Rs. 997.85 lakhs had been spent, during the first two years of the Seventh Plan period, only 2.3 per cent *i.e.* Rs. 43.75 lakhs out of the total allocation of Rs. 1954.80 lakhs was spent on the development of the Buddhist Centres. Savings are an index of shortfall in performance and are clearly indicative of absence of adequate attention and enthusiasm on the part of the concerned State Governments and the Ministry for the development of this sector. The Committee urge the Government to take appropriate measures for faster development of infrastructural and other facilities in this sector with due promptitude and also to ensure that sanctioned allocations for schemes in this sector are fully utilised. They would also like the Ministry to ensure that the process of development by the State Governments in this regard is monitored periodically at an appropriately higher level.

Strengthening of Infrastructure in Buddhist Circuit

Recommendation, Sl. No. 7 (Para 2.20)

1.10. The Committee were informed that the Government of Uttar Pradesh had forwarded a comprehensive proposal, the estimated cost of which was Rs. 23044.66 lakhs for strengthening of infrastructure in the Buddhist circuit in the State. The detailed proposals in respect of each project were awaited. Although the major part of the projects were to be funded from State's own resources, the Central share was to be to the tune of Rs. 270 lakhs. The Committee desired the Ministry to clear these proposals at the earliest so that execution thereof could be taken up by the U.P.

Government without any loss of time. The Committee further desired the Ministry to prevail upon the Government of Bihar to prepare comprehensive proposals for development of Buddhist circuit in that State. The proposals of both the State Governments might be considered/dovetailed with the Master Plan of Action to be prepared by the Ministry based on the recommendations of the Two Task Forces.

1.11. The Ministry in their reply stated that the proposal forwarded by the State Government of U.P. was a comprehensive one and included all the components like roads, bridges, culverts, etc. The Ministry had identified the component relating to accommodation for which central financial assistance could be considered. The Ministry had asked the State Government to forward individual proposals for each project. These were awaited from the State Government. In the meantime, through its initiative, the Ministry had been able to procure an external assistance of Rs. 100.00 crores for development of tourism infrastructure in the Buddhist Centres of U.P. and Bihar. The assistance had been obtained under the Indo-Japanese technical cooperation and it had been decided that suitable allocations for taking up the projects covered under the assistance would be made in the State Plans of both the States.

1.12. The Committee find that the reply of the Ministry is not relevant to their specific recommendation that the Government of Bihar should be prevailed upon to prepare comprehensive proposals for development of Buddhist circuit in that State. The Committee had also desired the Central Government to consider the comprehensive proposals of both the State Governments (U.P. and Bihar) and dovetail them with the Master Plan of action to be prepared by the Ministry on the basis of the recommendations of the two Task Forces. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and would desire the Ministry to take positive steps in that direction and would also like to be apprised of further progress in this regard.

Joint Ventures for development of Buddhist Centres

Recommendation, Sl. No. 20 (Para 3.72)

1.13. The Committee commended the promotional measures taken up by the Ministry for setting up a joint venture between the HCI (an Air-India subsidiary) and the HOKKE Club of Japan which was a Buddhist Organisation with the idea of constructing some hotels at the Buddhist Centres in the country. The Ministry had informed that one such hotel had already been commissioned at Rajgir and there was a proposal to construct another

at Kushinagar. The Committee desired the Ministry to explore possibilities of commissioning more such hotels in the joint venture with the HOKKE Club of Japan.

1.14. In their reply the Ministry stated that the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) had set up a hotel at Rajgir in the Joint sector in collaboration with the HOKKE CLUB of Japan. The proposal for construction of a joint hotel at Kushinagar was also perhaps of the HCI. ITDC, however, had no proposal at present to construct hotels in collaboration with M/s HOKKE Club of Japan at Buddhist Centres in the country.

1.15 The Committee had desired the Ministry to explore possibilities of commissioning more hotels at the Buddhist Centres in the joint venture with the HOKKE CLUB of Japan. They are not at all satisfied with the reply of the Ministry i.e. "ITDC, however, has no proposal at present to construct hotels in collaboration with M/s. HOKKE CLUB of Japan at Buddhist Centres in the country" and cannot help remarking that it is indicative of the fact that the recommendation of the Committee in this regard has been treated rather casually by the Ministry who have obviously not explored such a possibility as desired by the Committee. The Committee express displeasure over this casual approach of the Ministry and would like them to consider their earlier recommendation with greater depth and the seriousness it deserves. The Committee would like to be apprised in due course of the results of an in depth examination of the matter.

Implementation of recommendations

1.16 The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of recommendations accepted by Government. They would, therefore, urge that Government should keep a close watch so as to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommendations accepted by them. In cases where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reasons, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

1.17 The Committee desire that reply in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter V of the Report may be finalised and final reply of the Government furnished to Committee expeditiously.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation, Sl. No. 1 (Para 1.7)

The Committee note that for exploiting fully the tourist potential in Buddhist Sector, particularly attracting foreign tourists from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Sri Lanka. etc., the Government identified, in consultation with the respective State Governments 23 places—two in Andhra Pradesh, six in Bihar, two in Jammu and Kashmir, two in Madhya Pradesh, one each in Maharashtra and Orissa and three in Sikkim for integrated development of tourism infrastructure. However, it is surprising that instead of initiating immediate follow-up action for development, the Government chose to appoint a task force first in *July, 1986* and again in *June, 1987*, for formulating schemes for development of these centres, thus frittering away the precious time in the process. Now that the first task force has already submitted its report and the second task force is expected to submit its report shortly, the Committee expect the Government to take concerted action in the implementation of these two reports faithfully on a priority basis. The Committee recommend that the Government should fix up a time bound programme for implementing the prescribed targets and identify the centres of responsibility for implementing various sectors of the programme.

Reply of Government

In accordance with the recommendations of the First Task Force, a time-bound programme has been drawn up for implementing the prescribed targets and areas of responsibility for implementing various sectors of the programme have also been identified. The following action has been taken so far :—

Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry has sanctioned projects for construction of a tourist bungalow each at Nalanda and Gopalganj, wayside amenities at Jahanabad, development of Gautam Van at Bodhgaya and a tourist complex at Sravasti.

Government of Bihar

The State Government has sanctioned projects for expansion of its existing Tourist Bhawan at Patna, construction of a cafeteria with a reception centre at Nalanda, a tourist bungalow with a conference hall and a deer park at Rajgir, and wayside facilities at Hesua.

Government of Uttar Pradesh

The State Government has sanctioned projects for tourist bungalows at Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Sankasia, and Buddhist Museum at Kushinagar. The State Government has also acquired 98.26 acres of land at Piprahwa for construction of wayside amenities and a stupa.

Ministry of Surface Transport

The Task Force had recommended that an allocation of Rs. 39.00 crores be made for improvement of national highways leading to buddhist centres in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Till date, the Ministry of Surface Transport has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 18.5 crores for these roads. Target dates for completion have been prescribed for each sector of the national highways which have been taken up for improvement.

India Tourism Development Corporation

The India Tourism Development Corporation has completed the work of expansion of its Travellers Lodge at Bodhgaya by adding 18 rooms and upgradation of the property to a three-star level.

The Ministry has set up a Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (T) which monitors the progress of the projects on a regular basis. A Steering Group has recently been formed and to review the progress more frequently.

The report of the second Task Force is awaited and it is proposed to draw up a time-bound action plan after the report is received.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 2 (Para 1.18)

The Committee are informed that for overseeing implementation of the Action Plan based on the recommendations of the first Task Force, a coordination committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Tourism), including representatives of State Governments of U.P. and Bihar and Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, has been set up. The Committee, however, find that the 'important decisions' stated to have been taken by the coordination committee only indicate sanctioning of certain projects in the Central and State Sectors relating to development of National Highways/State roads and the provision of accommodation at various Buddhist Centres in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There is no indication whether the construction work of these projects has actually started and is progressing according to schedule. The Committee apprehend that it may not be practicable for the coordination committee to effectively monitor the physical achievements and inspect the construction works as frequently as may be necessary. They would, therefore, like the Ministry to consider the feasibility of creating a steering group under the coordination committee which may monitor physical progress of various construction projects so as to watch their timely completion. The coordination committee should, however, keep itself abreast of overall progress of implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force, including physical achievements.

Reply of Government

On the basis of the recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry has constituted a Steering Group with a view to monitoring physical progress of various construction projects. The Group comprises Director General (Tourism) and Directors of Tourism of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.88]

Recommendation Sl. No. 3 (Para No. 1.36)

The Committee find that there is considerable scope for attracting Buddhist tourist traffic not only from within the country but from abroad. The Task Force appointed by the Government to determine the infrastructural requirements of Buddhist Centres has also envisaged considerable growth in the domestic as well as foreign tourist traffic to various Buddhist Centres by the end of Seventh Plan. Although this information suggests a happy trend in the growth of the tourist traffic to Buddhist Centres in the country, the

Committee regret that all these conjectures are based on rough estimates only as admitted by the Ministry that "systematic collection of tourist statistics has not yet been taken up by many State Governments". Huge variations in the figures of visitors to various centres, furnished by the Ministry for the years 1982 to 1985, are clearly indicative of this malady. The Ministry has, however, now evolved a format for collection of figures on scientific lines on which the State Governments are expected to furnish the statistics.

While the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has started furnishing data as per the specified format, the State Government of Bihar has only 'promised' to do so.

The Committee, in this connection, would like the Ministry to examine whether the allocation of funds from the Central budget could be linked with the maintenance and submission of tourist statistics as per the format specified for the purpose, by the State Governments as, in their opinion, this may induce the State Governments to do the needful.

Reply of Government

The Ministry considered the feasibility of linking up the procedure of financial assistance to the State Governments for tourism projects with the submission of tourist statistics as per the formats specified. In view of the fact that a number of States are still not having a proper machinery for the collection of tourism statistics and are not attuned to such items of work, they are likely to take more time for reaching the acceptable standards. It would not be, therefore prudent to stop the financial assistance to such State Governments in toto as it would badly affect the infrastructural development programmes. However, the pressure of stopping financial assistance can be applied on a selective basis. The Secretary (Tourism) has already addressed a letter on this effect to all the defaulting States (copy enclosed).

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 4 (Para 1.37)

The Committee also hope that the survey of tourist arrivals in Buddhist sector by a private agency, as also the Tourist Potential Surveys taken up by the Central Ministry of Tourism, will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

Reply of Government

A study on the "Development of Buddhist Centres in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar" has already been got completed through a private agency. The National Council of Applied Economic Research has been commissioned in May 1988 for undertaking the Tourism Potential Survey in the Buddhist circuit. The study report is likely to be available by December, 1988.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No, 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 6 (Para 2.19)

The Committee find that out of four proposals received from the State Government of Bihar during 1987-88 viz. Tourist Bungalow at Nalanda, wayside facilities at Jahanabad, Tourist Bungalow at Gopalganj and Yatri-niwas at Gaya, three of them have been approved and instalments of various sums have been released to the executing authorities, while for the fourth proposal *i.e.* for Yatri Niwas at Gaya, detailed estimates are awaited from the CPWD. Out of two proposals for 1988-89, estimates have been received for one proposal and for the second, the estimates are 'not given'. From the Government of Uttar Pradesh, only one project for construction of Tourist Complex at Sravasti has been received and sanctioned for Rs. 63 lakhs, out of which Rs. 20 lakhs, have been released to the ITDC for construction. To Committee's surprise there is no indication as to when these projects are likely to be commissioned/completed. Since the Central Ministry sanctions these projects only after the land has been provided by the State Governments, there should not be any delay in execution of the construction work. The Committee would, like the Ministry to evolve a system whereunder they could insist upon the State Governments that while submitting estimates, they should also indicate the time schedule for completion of the project and the sanction thereof by the Ministry should carry a stipulation that the job must be completed within the stipulated time frame. The release of final instalment of the amount should depend on satisfactory progress of the project.

Reply of Government

With a view to streamlining the procedure for receiving complete proposals from the State Government for Central financial assistance, the Ministry has devised a proforma for the purpose. The State Governments are required to give necessary undertakings regarding availability of land, detailed informa-

tion regarding time schedule for the execution of the project, PERT Chart, etc. It is hoped that through the new system, it would be possible for the Ministry to closely monitor the progress of projects.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 8 (Para 2.21)

The Committee find that certain proposals have been received from the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh for development of infrastructural facilities at Buddhist Centres in those States. While most of them stated to be under examination by the Ministry, in respect of proposal for development of Nagarjunasagar, the Ministry has stated that it will be considered after the Master Plan is prepared. The Committee would like that the proposals in hand need not be kept pending and instead should be cleared, if possible, without waiting for the Master Plan. The Committee would, however, caution the Government to ensure that schemes not related or germane to the Buddhist tourist traffic do not find a way under this plan. It should also be ensured that the style and habits of the Buddhists are kept in view while formulating such schemes.

Reply of Government

The Ministry has already sanctioned a project for construction of a Cafeteria with accommodation at Nagarjunasagar at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.70 lakhs. Similarly, a Cafeteria was sanctioned for Sanchi at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.32 lakhs. The project has been completed and the Cafeteria is in operation. In addition, the Ministry has also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19.54 lakhs for construction of Wayside amenities at Hemis Gompa and Lomayuru in Leh District of Jammu and Kashmir. Projects in respect of Sikkim will be taken up after the report of the Second Task Force is received.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 9 (Para No. 3.18)

The Committee are informed that on the National Highway in the Buddhist Sector of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, certain construction projects have been recommended in the Action Plan along with allocation of funds

therefor. The committee would like the Ministry to monitor the progress with all the concerned authorities at the highest level so that the schemes are not bogged down in procedural wrangles and the work is started without any further loss of time. The Committee would also like that the progress in terms of physical achievements of these jobs is monitored by the coordination committee.

Reply of Government

As already submitted, the Ministry has formed a Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Tourism), Government of India to monitor the progress of various works sanctioned for development of infrastructure in the Buddhist Centres of U.P. and Bihar. A Steering Group has recently been formed under the Director General (Tourism) to hold periodical reviews of the progress of works. The Ministry would ensure that the Steering Group meets regularly and see that schemes are not bogged down in procedural wrangles.

Meetings of the Steering Group and the Coordination Committee were held on 6th and 16th September, 1988 in which physical and financial progress of each project was reviewed and target dates of completion fixed.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 10 (Para 3.19)

The Committee find that position with regard to State Roads/State Highways is equally unsatisfactory. Secretary (Tourism) informed the Committee during evidence that the Tourism Ministry is not providing finance for basic infrastructure like road development etc., which is the responsibility of the concerned State Government, Central Roads Organisation and other agencies. As a result of initiative taken by the Ministry, Central Road Organisation has diverted funds from other areas to the roads/highways in the Buddhist circuit. Similarly, both the U.P. and Bihar Governments have allocated special funds for improvement of roads falling within their jurisdiction, on persuasion by the Ministry. While the Committee commend these efforts of the Ministry, they would like continuous monitoring and vigil till such time that all the construction jobs are accomplished. According to the Committee, good roads are a primary prerequisite for the development of a tourist centre.

Reply of Government

The Coordination Committee and the Steering Group at their meetings held on 6th September, 1988 and 16th September, 1988 reviewed the progress of central and State sector roads and fixed target dates of their completion. The details of National Highways are at Annexure 'A' while the details of State roads in Bihar are at Annexure 'B'. [Annexures not included in Report]

The Steering Group will regularly monitor the progress of these roads.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 11 (Para 3.20)

The Committee would also like the Ministry to get in touch with the State Government of Bihar and impress upon them the need to improve the road link between Vaishali-Areraj and Kesariya, which as a matter of chance does not happen to be included in the Action Plan.

Reply of Government

The Ministry has already taken up the matter of improvement of road link between Vaishali-Areraj and Kesariya, with the Government of Bihar.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 12 (Para 3.38)

In view of the fact that foreign tourists generally prefer air travel, the Committee consider that air strips both at Sravasti and Kushinagar should be developed on a priority basis. The provision of an air strip at Piprahwa also merits reconsideration by the Central/State Government in view of the positive recommendation of the Task Force on the Subject. The Committee would also like the Ministry to examine as to which other Buddhist Centres could profitably be linked by Vayudoot or Helicopter services.

Reply of Government

In order to develop facilities of international standards for tourists to visit the Buddhist circuit, the Central Government has been having a dialouge with the State Government for setting up of air strips in the Buddhist areas. The airport at Kasia is ready for operation. Vayudoot air services are expected to be operated to Kasia from Ist week of October, 1988. The Delhi-Lucknow-Gorakhpur flight will be able to operate on this route thrice a week. Faizabad is likely to be airlinked by Vayudoot in the near future. It is approximately 70-75 Kms. from Sravasti. Thus, after Faizabad is airlinked, it will be easier for tourists to reach Sravasti. The matter concerning operation of Vayudoot Services and development of more air strips has already been taken up with the concerned Departments of the Government for early appropriate action.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O. M. No. 16/19/87-Parlt. Dated 25.11.88]

Recommendation Sl. No. 13 (Para 3.39)

The Committee are informed that the road transport facilities available in the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar do not conform to the standards required for the foreign tourists as air-conditioned cars and coaches are not available. During evidence Secretary (Tourism) has stated that the Government of India were approached for the import of 100 airconditioned coaches, but they have, instead, agreed for airconditioning of the Indian built coaches. The Committee would like the Ministry to expedite action to provide air-conditioned coaches, in keeping with international standards, for promotion of road traffic to Buddhist centres.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Tourism is seized of the problem of inadequate surface transport not only in the Buddhist sectors but all over the country. With a view to raising the standards of coaches to the international level the Ministry of Tourism has had a dialouge with indigenou manufacturers of coaches. Some of the indigenou manufacturers are presently working on a suitable model and it is expected that an acceptable AC coach fitted with imported AC unit will be available from these manufacturers to the Travel Trade and State Transport undertakings for utilisation in Buddhist centres.

Ministry of Tourism is also examining the possibility of one time import of airconditioned coaches/cars and is currently also exploring the possibility of importing CKD/SKD Kits for assembly in India.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87-Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 15 (Para 3.67)

The Committee are informed that the Task Force had recommended need for augmentation and improvement of accommodation at almost all the Buddhist Centres in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Most of the funds for accommodation have to be provided by the Central Government and the State Governments have been asked to share the responsibility to the extent of 25% or to the tune of rupees two crores only over the next two years. The Task Force recommended construction of tourist bungalows at Nalanda, Gopalganj, Rajgir in Bihar and Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh. In practically all the places, financial sanction have been issued and certain amounts have been released in some of the cases to the C.P.W.D. who are responsible for execution of the construction. The Committee, however, feel distressed to find that none of the projects have made any headway and construction has not yet started any-where. Even the land for these projects at some places is yet to be acquired/identified. The Committee cannot consider it a happy state of affairs and would emphasise upon the Ministry to issue proper directions for execution of these jobs at the earliest. A time frame with regard to starting construction and completion of all these projects is needed to be stipulated and the progress closely monitored.

Reply of Government

The Ministry has been in constant touch with the respective State Governments and the executing agencies regarding early commencement of works at all the above mentioned centres. As a result of the Ministry's persuasion, work at Sravasti has started and is likely to be completed by December, 1989. Similarly, work at Gorakhpur has also started and piling is in progress. As regards Kushinagar, 50% work has been completed in respect of rooms, 70% work has been completed in respect of sanitary and electrical works, and boundary wall has been completed. The Centrally assisted projects at Nalanda and Gopalganj which were assigned to the CPWD could not be started because the State Government has yet to hand over the possession of the land to the CPWD.

The Coordination Committee and the Steering Group at their meetings held on 6th September, 1988 and 16th September, 1988 reviewed the progress of each project. Detailed discussions were held with the Officers of the State Governments and the Archaeological Survey of India and target dates for completion of each project were fixed. The Coordination Committee and the Steering Group will hold regular meetings to monitor the progress of the projects.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87-Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 16 (Para 3.68)

The Committee further find that the Task Force had also recommended construction of certain other projects in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In Bihar, they had recommended projects like a Cafeteria and Reception Centre in the State sector at Nalanda ; a Deer Park and a Cultural Centre at Rajgir ; a Cultural Centre at Bodhgaya and setting up of a Stupa and a Cultural Centre at Vaishali. Similarly in Uttar Pradesh the Task Force had recommended setting up of a Stupa in Piprahwa. The Committee regret that even in these projects nothing concrete has been done and things are only at the initial stage *i.e.* issuing of sanction etc. by the Central/State Governments. At Piprahwa, it has been suggested that instead of Stupa a 'Meditation Park' will be built by the Archaeological Survey of India. A meditation pavillion is also proposed to be built for which only notification for acquisition of land has been issued and the construction of the job would be taken up after the land is acquired. But to Committee's dismay, this project has also not yet been initiated. The Committee would stress that all these projects should be initiated by the executing agencies without any further loss of time and their progress monitored/watched so as to see that they are accomplished well on time.

Reply of Government

The following is the latest physical progress of the projects undertaken in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh :

1. Cafeteria at Rajgir

The Department of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5.04 lakhs for construction of Cafeteria at Rajgir. The Cafeteria has been completed and is functioning since April 1988.

2. Cafeteria and Reception Centre at Nalanda

The Government of Bihar has already sanctioned a project for construction of a Cafeteria and a Reception Centre at Nalanda at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.67 lakhs. The Construction work has not started because the Archaeological Survey of India is yet to give the clearance for the project. It will take one year for the State Government to complete the project after requisite clearance is given by the A.S.I.

3. Deer Park at Rajgir

The State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 31.41 lakhs for construction of Deer Park at Rajgir. The work is being executed by the State Forest Department. While the boundary wall of the Park has been completed, the remaining work is held up for want of clearance from the Archaeological Survey of India.

4. Stupa at Vaishali

The Government of Bihar have acquired a piece of land measuring about 10 acres at a total cost of Rs. 5.20 lakhs for the construction of a Stupa at Vaishali. The land has been handed over to Rajgir Buddh Bihar Society for the construction of Shanti stupa which has undertaken the construction with the help of a Japanese institution. Initial work on the project has already started.

5. Cultural Centres at Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali

The Government of India has sanctioned a Tourist Bungalow at Nalanda at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs while the State Government has sanctioned a Tourist Bungalow at Rajgir at an estimated cost of Rs. 41.38 lakhs. The Rajgir project is in progress and has reached lintel level and is expected to be completed by August, 1989. As regards Tourist Bungalow at Nalanda, preliminary work is being done by the C.P.W.D. The Tourist Bungalow at Rajgir will have a multi purpose hall which will serve the requirements of cultural programmes, conferences, etc. Regarding Cultural Centres at Vaishali and Nalanda, the Department of Tourism has decided not to provide central financial assistance as these projects will not be economically viable.

6. *Stupa at Piprahwa*

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has already acquired a piece of land measuring 98.26 acres for construction of Wayside amenities, staff quarters and a Meditation Park at Piprahwa. Plans and estimates for these projects are in an advanced stage of preparation.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.88]

Recommendation Sl. No. 17 (Para 3.69)

It has been brought to the notice of the Committee during evidence that at Vaishali in Bihar, Archaeological Survey of India had constructed at area tile structure over the "Stupa" set up there 25 years ago. The structure over fell down in due course and again, in 1985, another structure with corrugated tin sheet was put up and the same was also blown off. Though the Committee agree with the views of the Archaeological Survey of India that a permanent Shed over a "Stupa" was against the archaeological principles, they would like the Archaeological Survey of India, as agreed to during evidence, to evolve a particular type of structure and put up the same at the earliest, which could preserve the beauty and sanctity of the "Stupa" from rain and sunshine.

Reply of Government

It may be stated that ASI has already initiated action for providing a shed of iron pipe/angle iron and GI sheet. The work is expected to be completed within this year.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.88]

Recommendation Sl. No. 19 (Para 3.71)

The Committee find that there are three hotels run by the ITDC in the Buddhist Circuit, in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. These are Ptna, Bodhgaya and Varanasi. The Task Force had recommended augmentation of hotel accommodation by 40 rooms in Hotel Ashok, Parliputra at Patna. With regard to this recommendation, the Ministry have stated that on examination of the matter by ITDC no need for expansion of the hotel has been felt in view of its low occupancy. The occupancy even in hotels at Varanasi and

Bodhgaya is also stated to be very low and all these hotels are running into losses. It is since last year that these hotels have started showing some profit. Considering the present trend of tourist traffic, the Committee feel that if the facilities are such as to meet the level of tourists for whom these hotels cater, occupancy could improve. According to the Committee, there are complaints of inefficiency, mis-management in these hotels as well as hotel at Patna and low occupancy is precisely because of these reasons apart from season of traffic. In Committee's view these hotels do not compare well in the matter of provision of service with hotels in the Private Sector. Since these are the hotels which cater to the requirements of the foreign tourist traffic in the Buddhist Sector in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the Committee would like the Ministry to look into these aspects seriously and direct ITDC to improve services/management in these hotels. They are sure that if the services, facilities and management in these hotels are brought at the level of service provided by similar hotels in the private sector, there is no reason why the occupancy position and profitability should not rise.

Reply of Government

Number of factor affect the occupancy and profitability of ITDC's hotels located at Patna, Varanasi and Bodhgaya. The factors affecting the occupancy and profitability of each of these hotels as also the steps being taken to overcome them are given in Annexure. (Annexure not included in Report).

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 21 (Para 3.73)

The Committee are informed that in order to provide low priced accommodation at the tourist centres to the domestic tourist/pilgrims, the Ministry has formulated a scheme to provide such accommodation in the form of Yatrikas and Yatri Niwases. Construction of these Yatrikas and Yatri Nivases is undertaken by a Samiti called the Bhartiya Yatri Awas Vikas Samiti and the Ministry provides grants-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the cost. The Committee are amazed to find that not a single Yatrika/ Yatri Niwas has so far been constructed at any of the Buddhist Centres in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Secretary (Tourism) stated during evidence that the probable cause for this was that the State Governments have not been

able to arrange land/Sites for the purpose. The Committee are of the opinion that in order to promote domestic tourism, low priced accomodation is a pre-requisite at all the tourist centres. Since the projected tourist traffic of domestic tourists at Buddhist Centres is expected to rise, the State Governments concerned should be induced to make efforts in this regard to procure land and activate the Bhartiya Yatri Awas Vikas Samiti so that the construction projects are taken up by them well in time.

Reply of Government

The proposal of the Government of Bihar for Central financial assistance for construction of a Yatri Niwas at Gaya is under active consideration of the Ministry. The Yatri Niwas at Gaya will cater to the requirements of tourists visiting Bodhgaya. As regards other centres, a majority of accommodation which is under construction, both in the Central and State sectors, is primarily meant for middle and low income groups of tourists.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 22 (Para 3.74)

The Committee are happy to find that the Ministry has undertaken to provide wayside facilities like drinking water and toilets etc. at some of the Buddhist Centres in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh namely Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sravasti and Sanchi which is in Madhya Pradesh. The work at all these centres is stated to be nearing completion. The Committee hope that this will be completed on schedule and would like the Ministry to undertake provision of such facilities at other Buddhist Centres also in a phased manner. The Committee would also emphasize the need for arrangements to maintain these facilities.

Reply of Government

It may be stated in regard to providing wayside facilities that toilet blocks have been completed at Bodhgaya (Site Museum), Nalanda, Rajgir, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sanchi and the work at Sravasti is in progress. Wherever possible drining water facilities have been provided.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.88]

Recommendation Sl. No. 23 (Para 3.75)

The Committee are also informed that an amount of Rs. 3.49 lakhs has been sanctioned for construction of wayside facilities at Jahanabad. An amount of Rs. 2 lakhs has been released to the State Government which is executing the project. Similarly, for construction of wayside facilities at Piprahwa, a notification for acquisition of land is stated to have been issued by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Committee desire that the State Governments concerned may be impressed upon to accelerate the process for acquiring land etc. and undertake construction at the earliest.

Reply of Government

Construction work at Jahanabad is in progress and is likely to be completed by the end of 1988-89. As regards Piprahwa, the State Government has already acquired land measuring 98.26 acres. Blue prints and estimates for setting up Wayside facilities are being prepared and work is expected to start shortly.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 24 (Para 4.4)

The Committee are happy to note that the Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken structural repairs, chemical preservation and horticulture operations in Kushinagar and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh. It is also examining proposals for development of a garden each at Tapovan (Rajgir) and Lauria Nandangarh in Bihar and Piprahwa and Sankia in Uttar Pradesh. The Committee hope that the proposals under examination of the Archaeological Survey of India will be finalised at the earliest and implementation thereof taken up in right earnest.

Reply of Government

The Archaeological Survey of India is maintaining gardens and remains at Kushinagar and Sravasti. The development of gardens at Rajgir and Lauria Nandangarh in Bihar and Piprahwa and Sankisa in Uttar Pradesh are under the consideration of the Archaeological Survey of India and work will be taken up keeping in view other archaeological developments which include clearance/excavation, introduction of proper roads where there is more than one variety of monuments, etc. The garden will be developed keeping in view the other measures of preservation and beautification of the area.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 25 (Para 4.13)

The Committee are informed that a plan for well defined marketing and advertisement campaign, for implementation during 1988-89 has been prepared by the Ministry. In this connection, a representative of an advertisement agency has visited Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to study market there and to discuss the campaign with the officers of the Ministry of Tourism. The campaign will be supported by posters, brochures and audio-visuals. A TV campaign to promote Buddhist traffic is also proposed to be launched in 1988-89. While the Committee appreciate the advertisement campaign proposed to be launched during the financial year 1988-89, they apprehend that this may not overtake the development programme of tourist centres, particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, as the same is not progressing at a pace matching the campaign for publicity. Therefore, it is imperative that side by side with the publicity campaign, provision of developmental activities has also to be accelerated at all the Buddhist centres.

Reply of Government

The publicity campaign prepared by M/s SISTA's Advertising Agency was approved by the Ministry of Tourism. However, release of the campaign was delayed in view of the Estimates Committee's recommendations. It will now be released on a limited scale in Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. The campaign will be progressively stepped up to keep pace with the development of infrastructure.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11 1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 26 (Para 4.18)

The Committee find that with regard to availability of guide service in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, in the Buddhist Sector, the Task Force has commented that the quality of guide services for the Buddhist Sector is not upto the requisite standards. The Ministry in this connection, has prepared guidelines for training of tourist guides and circulated to all the State Governments, wherever there is a tourist office of the Government of India, the guide training course is to be conducted by that office and licences issued to the successful candidates. At places where Government of India do not have tourist offices, the respective State Governments are supposed to conduct such a course. The Committee find that only a Japanese conversational course for guides has been sanctioned to be started at Varanasi and a request for

similar course at Patna has been received by the Ministry. They are, however unhappy to find that regular courses for guides in the Buddhist sector, particularly in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have not yet been initiated either by the Central Ministry of Tourism or by the respective State Governments. The Committee desire the Ministry to take up the matter with the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh so that such courses could be started without any further loss of time.

The Ministry may also take action to organise such courses at the stations where they have their own offices.

Reply of Government

In order to provide the facility of trained guide services in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Ministry of Tourism has already in consultation with the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar initiated guide training courses. Ministry of Tourism organised such courses from time to time in consultation with the State Governments where there is demand for more trained tourist guides.

Varanasi : During 1987-88, a Japanese Language conversation course for four months for existing guides has already been organised at Varanasi. Seven guides qualified this language course. Varanasi has now 48 trained guides approved by the Ministry and the number of language speaking guides there is as under :—

Japanese	—	10
German	—	4
French	—	4
Italian	—	3
Arabic	—	1

Patna : Keeping in view the importance of the Buddhist Sector, a guide training course is being conducted in Patna by the Government of India Tourist Office in cooperation with the State Government of Bihar during the current year. preference will be given to candidates who have knowledge of language, like Japanese, Thai, Chinese, Pali, Prakrit to serve Buddhist tourists.

As already stated, Ministry of Tourism organises courses from time to time at places of tourists interest through its Tourist Offices as and when there is a demand in consultation with the State Government. During 1987-88 eight Guide Training Courses were held at the following places which include Varanasi also :—

1. Agra
2. Aurangabad
3. Bombay (2 courses including one language course)
4. Bhopal
5. Goa
6. Madras
7. Varanasi

During the current year, besides the course which is being held at Patna, Guide Training Courses have also been sanctioned for Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Port Blair. In addition, a Japanese language course was organised in Delhi by the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in association with Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Gorakhpur : Separately, at the instance of Ministry of Tourism the U.P. Government had also tried to organise guide training course at Gorakhpur in U.P. However, there was no response at that time. The State Government has been advised to make fresh efforts.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

CHAPTER-III

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES.

Recommendation Sl. No. 18 (Para 3.70)

The Committee find that the Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned Rs. 63 lakhs for construction of a Tourist Complex at Sravasti in January, 1986 and an advance of Rs. 20 lakhs was released to ITDC which is the executing agency therefor. The structural design and the contour survey etc. are stated to have been completed. The conceptual drawings of the projects were prepared by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad but had to be modified and the revised preliminary drawings and lay out plans were finalised in February, 1987. The tenders for construction work were called in July 1, 1987 which were found to be on the higher side and were re-invited in December, 1987. These are stated to be under examination for acceptance by ITDC. The Committee are unhappy to find that the whole process has taken so long a time that the project which was sanctioned for Rs. 63 lakhs would now cost Rs. 127.55 lakhs. Since this exceeds by more than Rs. 50 lakhs, a memo for the Standing Finance Committee is being prepared by the ITDC. The Committee feel that had there been no delay in the spade work of the project by the concerned agencies, its cost would not have risen as much. The Committee would now like that the entire process should be accelerated and the construction started at the earliest.

Reply of Government

The contract for composite work (civil, structural, sanitary, plumbing, internal electrification and road) has already been awarded by the ITDC. However, the local representative of the Archaeological Survey of India raised objections to the contractor's starting constructions activities at the site asking to first obtain the clearance from the Superintending Archaeologist, Lucknow or from the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India. Accordingly, the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India was

approached by the Department of Tourism to grant necessary permission immediately so that the ITDC could proceed with the construction work. A meeting was held on the 2nd November, 1988 under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Tourism which was attended by the representatives of the Archaeological Survey of India, the India Tourism Development Corporation and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. It was explained by the representative of the A.S.I. that the entire 13 acres of land acquired by the Department of Tourism at Sravasti for the construction of a Tourist Complex is being declared as a protected Area under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India. This is being done on account of the importance of the area from point of view of archaeological remains of over 2000 years ago. Therefore, merely shifting the location of the site of the proposed Complex within the campus of the land of the Department of Tourism, will not serve the purpose. In order to protect the environment, an alternative site will have to be chosen and as such the proposed Tourist Complex cannot be located close to the monuments. It was decided to carry out an inspection of the alternate sites by a joint team comprising representatives of the Archaeological Survey of India, the ITDC and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The team carried out the inspection on 12th November, 1988 and its report is awaited. As soon the Team's report is received the site will be finalised.

Increase in the cost of the Project has been mainly due to change in the concept, contents and scope of the complex and not entirely due to time over-runs.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87-Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

CHAPTER-IV

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation Sl. No. 5 (Para 2.12)

The Committee find that while during the Sixth Five Year Plan, out of the total allocation of Rs. 997.85 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 91.41 lakhs, which comes to 9.16 per cent of the total allocation, was spent on development of Buddhist Centres, during Seventh Plan, out of the total allocation of Rs. 1954.80 lakhs, an amount of only 43.75 lakhs, which comes to only 2.23 per cent (expenditure upto October, 1987 has been spent on these centres. The Committee draw an inevitable conclusion that the decline in expenditure indicates lack of adequate attention being paid to the development of this 'sector' by either the State Governments due to delay in finalisation and submission of their proposals to the Ministry of Tourism or delay in execution of the schemes which have been approved and sanctioned. The Committee express serious concern that while there is an allround emphasis on development of Buddhist sector in view of its abundant tourist potential and two Task Forces have been set up by the Government to identify areas which need early development, there is lack of adequate enthusiasm on the part of concerned Central/State authorities to accelerate the process of development. The Committee would like the Ministry/respective State Governments to take urgent corrective measures for faster development of facilities in this sector.

Reply of Government

Within limited resources, every efforts is being made by the Central Government and the State Governments concerned to accelerate the process of development in the Buddhist centres identified in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. At the initiative of the Ministry of tourism, it has been possible to procure external assistance worth about Rs. 100.00 crores under the Indo-Japanese Technical Cooperation for development of infrastructure and other facilities in Buddhist Centres of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As regards total

allocation of funds during Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan, it may be mentioned that the figure for the Sixth Plan is for the full Plan period *i.e.* five years whereas the figure for the Seventh Five Year Plan pertains to only first two years of the Plan period. Hence, any comparison between funds allocated during the Sixth Plan and the Seventh Plan will not be a fair one.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 7 (Para 2.20)

The committee are informed that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded a comprehensive proposal, the estimated cost of which is Rs. 23044.66 lakhs for strengthening of infrastructure in the Buddhist circuit in the State. The detailed proposals in respect of each project are awaited. Although the major part of the projects are to be funded from State's own resources, the Central share may be to the tune of Rs. 270 lakhs. The Committee would like the Ministry to clear these proposals at the earliest so that execution thereof could be taken up by the U.P. Government without any loss of time. The Committee would also like the Ministry to prevail upon the Government of Bihar to prepare comprehensive proposals for development of Buddhist circuit in that State. The proposals of both the State Governments may be considered/dovetailed with the Master Plan of Action to be prepared by the Ministry based on the recommendations of the Two Task Forces.

Reply of Government

The proposal forwarded by the State Government was a comprehensive one and included all the components like roads, bridges, culverts etc. The Ministry had identified the component relating to accommodation for which central financial assistance could be considered. The Ministry had asked the State Government to forward individual proposals for each project. These are awaited from the State Government. In the meantime, through its initiative, the Ministry has been able to procure an external assistance of Rs. 100.00 crores for development of tourism infrastructure in the Buddhist Centres of UP and Bihar. The assistance has been obtained under the Indo-Japanese Technical Cooperation and it has been decided that suitable allocations for taking up the projects covered under the assistance would be made in the State Plans of both the States.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

Recommendation Sl. No. 20 (Para 3.72)

The Committee commenced the promotional measures taken up by the Ministry for setting up a joint venture between the HCI (an Air-India subsidiary) and the HOKKE Club of Japan which is a Buddhist Organisation with the idea of constructing some hotels at the Buddhist Centres in the country. The Ministry has informed that one such hotel has already been commissioned at Rajgir and there is a proposal to construct another hotel at Kushinagar. The Committee would like the Ministry to explore possibilities of commissioning more such hotels in the joint venture with the HOKKE Club of Japan.

Reply of Government

The Hotel Corporation of India have set up a hotel at Rajgir in the joint sector in collaboration with the HOKKE CLUB of Japan. The proposal for construction of a Joint hotel at Kushinagar is also perhaps of the HCI. ITDC, however, has no proposal at present to construct hotels in collaboration with M/s HOKKE CLUB of Japan at Buddhist Centres in the country.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

CHAPTER-V

RECOMMENDATION/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation Sl. No. 14 (Para No. 3.40)

The Committee find that in view of the recommendations of the Task Force for revival of the Great India Rover, the matter is being examined by the Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. Secretary (Tourism) is stated to have held a number of meetings, in this connection, with Chairman and Member (Traffic) of the Railway Board. The two alternatives under consideration are stated to be deployment of train on a fixed itinerary covering places of Buddhist interest or permitting the private agencies to charter the train on itineraries which they may find feasible, to sell in the overseas market. The Committee would like the ministry to arrive at an early decision in the matter either way considering all the pros and cons.

Reply of Government

Regarding the revival of the Great Indian Rover the matter is still being pursued with the Ministry of Railways and the private sector to arrive at a decision on one of the two alternatives as given above at an early date.

[Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Department of Tourism)
O.M. No. 16/19/87—Parlt. Dated 25.11.1988]

NEW DELHI ;

28 March, 1989

7 Chaitra, 1911 (Saka)

ASUTOSH LAW,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 63rd Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)

I. Total number of Recommendations	26
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26).	
Total	21
Percentage	80%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (No. 18)	
Total	1
Percentage	4%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee. (Nos. 5, 7, 20)	
Total	3
Percentage	12%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited. (No. 14)	
Total	1
Percentage	4%