

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†2003
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2018**

LINKING OF MUMBAI-AURANGABAD WITH BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

†2003. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to expand Buddhist tourism circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 more States to make it the country's first transnational tourist circuit recently and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether due to the expansion of Buddhist tourism circuit, the number of Buddhist tourists from the West, besides those from traditional markets in South East are likely to be increased and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether Mumbai-Aurangabad and Nagpur cities are proposed to be linked with Buddhist circuit; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the amount spent for the development of Buddhist circuit in the country during the last three years?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme has identified Buddhist circuit as one of the thematic circuits for development in the country. All sites in the country associated with Buddhism are covered under this circuit.

The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of

suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier. Based on above criteria, Ministry has sanctioned following projects under Buddhist Circuit theme:

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State & Year	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned	Amt. Released
1.	Madhya Pradesh 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit in Sanchi- Satna- Rewa- Mandsaur- Dhar	74.94	37.47
2.	Uttar Pradesh 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Srawasti- Kushinagar- Kapilvastu	99.97	19.99
3.	Bihar 2016-17	Construction of Convention Centre adjacent to Maya Sarovar on the western side at Bodhgaya	98.73	19.75
4.	Gujarat 2017-18	Development of Buddhist circuit: Junagadh- Gir- Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	35.99	7.20
5.	Andhra Pradesh 2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Thotlakonda- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda- Amravati- Anupu	52.34	10.47
Total			361.97	94.88

The projects under the scheme are sanctioned with the objective to develop the circuits in a planned/prioritized manner and enhancing visitor experience/satisfaction at the destinations which in turn is expected to increase the domestic and international tourist footfalls at the sites.
