

- ii) Steps for the automatisation of these exchanges by electronic exchanges and building up of reliable transmission media have been taken up.

[English]

**Development of Tourist Spots in Karnataka**

\*3. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Karnataka lacks basic tourist facilities" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13 November, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the Government are losing foreign exchange due to lack of infrastructure and tourist facilities in Karnataka;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to develop tourist spots and provide adequate infrastructure and tourist facilities in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign exchange earnings from tourism sector have shown a steady increase in the last few years. However, the tourism potential in the country, including the State

of Karnataka, could be further exploited to earn foreign exchange.

(c) and (d). Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government extends financial assistance to States, based on specific proposals from State Governments and dependent upon merit of each case, availability of funds and inter-se priority. The Central Government had sanctioned tourism projects/ schemes for Rs. 252.20 lakhs, during the seventh plan to Government of Karnataka. During 1990-91. 10 projects have been prioritised in consultation with the Government of Karnataka, for extending central financial assistance estimated at Rs. 111.12 lakhs.

**Japanese Aid to Develop Places of Buddhist Interest**

\*4. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are developing the places of Buddhist interest with Japanese aid;

(b) if so, the States where the religious Buddhist places are located and the Japanese aid given to develop those places;

(c) whether infrastructural facilities are proposed to be provided in Jhalawar district to attract tourists to see the Buddhist caves and stupas located there; and

(d) if so, the aid and assistance proposed to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Tourist infrastructure at places of Buddhist interest connected with the life of Lord Buddha are being developed in the States of UP and