

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*25
ANSWERED ON 19.11.2019

DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST SITES IN ODISHA

*25. SHRI AMAR PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures to promote Buddhist circuits in the State of Odisha, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government plans to include Buddhist sites in the State of Odisha for development; and
- (c) the details of budgetary allocations made for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*25 ANSWERED ON 19.11.2019 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST SITES IN ODISHA.

(a): Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination and as part of its on-going activities, annually releases domestic and international print, electronic and online media campaigns under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products in the different States and Union Territories of the country including the Buddhist circuits in the State of Odisha. Promotions are also undertaken through the Website and Social Media accounts of the Ministry. In addition, the India Tourism Offices in India and overseas undertake various promotional activities with the objective of showcasing the tourism potential and products of the country including the Buddhist circuits in the State of Odisha. Some of the important promotional initiatives taken in this regard are:

- (i) To showcase and promote the Buddhist Heritage in India and to boost tourism to the Buddhist sites in the country, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India organizes an International Buddhist Conclave biennially. Participants in the Conclave include eminent Buddhist scholars, opinion makers, tour operators and media personalities from overseas.
- (ii) The Ministry of Tourism has organized Road Shows in Yangon (Myanmar), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and Bangkok (Thailand) in May 2018 for promotion of India's Buddhist Heritage.
- (iii) Again in 2019, Buddhist heritage sites were promoted through various Road Shows organised in East Asia, South East Asia, America, Australasia and Europe.
- (iv) The Ministry of Tourism has produced a short film on Buddhist sites in the Country which has been promoted through the digital and electronic media.
- (v) The Ministry of Tourism has launched a dedicated website on important Buddhist sites in India i.e www.indiathelandofbuddha.in. This website aims to promote and showcase the rich Buddhist Heritage in India.

(b) and (c): Ministry has identified Buddhist Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme- integrated development of Tourist Circuits in the country. All sites in the country related to Buddhism including the ones in Odisha 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 five projects for Rs. 355.26 Crore under the Buddhist Circuit theme covering the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Ministry of Tourism under its Schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations /Central Agencies for development of tourism infrastructure in the country. The details of project sanctioned to the State of Odisha under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Sl. No.	Scheme/Year of Sanction	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Swadesh Darshan (2016-17)	Development of Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara as Coastal circuit	70.82
2.	PRASHAD (2014-15)	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham- Ramachandi-Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit	50.00
Total			120.82
