

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.318
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2021

BUDDHIST CORRIDOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

318. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) the details of measures being taken to provide connectivity to the Buddhist corridor in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the funds granted in this regard;
- (c) whether Government further intends to take measures in this regard in the near future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (e): With an objective to improve the Road connectivity to the important tourist destinations, Ministry of Tourism had shared list of 50 tourism destinations including Iconic Sites and UNESCO World Heritage Sites followed by further list of 114 destinations based on inputs received from the States /UTs Administration with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. Where good road connectivity already exists, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has been requested to consider setting up of wayside amenities, prominent signages and beautification of the area, at a distance of 15-20 km. on either side of the tourist destinations. The destinations which fall under the state of Andhra Pradesh is as under: -

Sl. No.	Tourist Destination
1.	Lepakshi
2.	Vizag
3.	Lambasingi, Chintapally (Mandal)
4.	Borra Caves, Anantagiri (Mandal) of the Araku Vally
5.	Belum Caves

Similarly, with a view to improve the air connectivity to the tourist places, the Ministry of Tourism proposed inclusion of tourism destinations in the RCS-UDAN Scheme launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 46 tourism routes have been included in RC – UDAN 3, and out of these, the following 2 routes fall under the state of Andhra Pradesh: -

Sl. No.	Routes
1.	Rajamundhry to Vishakapatnam
2.	Vishakapatnam to Rajamundhry

Operation on both the above mentioned routes has already been commenced.

A total amount of 225 cr. has been allocated under the Champion Services Sector Scheme for a period of 3 years. Rs. 50.00 crore has been provided for the financial year 2020-21, out of which Rs. 43.70 crore, as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) has already been reimbursed to Airport Authority India (AAI).
