

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3511
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021**

BUDDHIST CORRIDOR IN UTTAR PRADESH

**3511. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of places being developed as tourist destinations in the country under the Buddhist corridor in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;**
- (b) the details of measures being taken to provide connectivity to the Buddhist corridor in Uttar Pradesh and the funds granted in this regard so far;**
- (c) whether the Government intends to take measures in this regard in the near future too;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor; and**
- (e) the new initiatives/steps that were taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism with an objective to create tourism infrastructure in the country, provides financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations/ Central Agencies under its schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD). The Ministry under 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme has sanctioned 5 projects under Buddhist circuit theme including 1 project in Uttar Pradesh, the details of which are at annexure-I. In addition, another project 'Development of Wayside Amenities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar' for an amount of Rs. 17.93 Crore at Varanasi-Gaya; Lucknow-Ayodhya- Lucknow; Gorakhpur Kushinagar; Kushinagar

- Gaya Kushinagar routes has also been sanctioned. Under PRASHAD scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, components of Sound and Light Show at Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath at a cost of Rs. 7.34 Crore and Buddha Theme Park, Sarnath, at a cost of Rs. 2.20 Crore have also been sanctioned in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport on 20th October 2021 which will enhance connectivity to the region. Details of the connectivity works being undertaken in the Buddhist sites in Uttar Pradesh by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is at annexure-II.

In addition, an Action Plan has been formulated with a view to evolve a coordinated strategy for "Revival of India as a Global Centre of Buddhist Culture and Tourism with Special Focus on Bodhgaya". The Action Plan includes interventions under 4 verticals: i) Connectivity; ii) Infrastructure and Logistics; iii) Cultural Heritage, Research & Education; and iv) Public Awareness, Communication & Outreach and the Ministry of Tourism has been made the nodal Ministry for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing promotional activities undertakes holistic promotion of various tourist destinations including Buddhist sites of the country, in the domestic and international markets.

ANNEXURE - I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3511 ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021 REGARDING BUDDHIST CORRIDOR IN UTTAR PRADESH.

DETAILS OF PROJECTS SANCTIONED UNDER BUDDHIST CIRCUIT THEME OF SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

(Amt. in crore)

S.No.	Name of State	Year of sanction	Project Name	Amt. Sanctioned	Amt. Released
1.	Madhya Pradesh	2016-17	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar.	74.02	69.08
2.	Uttar Pradesh	2016-17	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilvastu.	99.97	72.56
3.	Bihar	2016-17	Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	98.73	93.22
4.	Gujarat	2017-18	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	28.67	22.28
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Thotlakonda- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda- Amravati- Anupu in Andhra Pradesh	24.14	26.17

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3511 ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021 REGARDING BUDDHIST CORRIDOR IN UTTAR PRADESH.**DETAILS OF THE CONNECTIVITY WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE BUDDHIST SITES IN UTTAR PRADESH BY THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS****(Rs. in Crore)**

Sr. No	Name of Stretch	Length	Approximate Cost	Status
01	Bodhgaya– Rajgir– Nalanda Bihar sharif (Old NH-82)	92 km	Rs.2138	4-laning work ongoing
02	Biharsharif to Bakhtiyarpur (Old NH-31)	30 km	Rs 1362	4-laning work ongoing
03	Bakhtiyarpur to Patna (Old NH-30)	50 km	Rs 574	4-laning completed
04	Patna –Vaishali – Rampur Khajuria (NH-139W)	120 km	Rs 3080	Under DPR
05	Rampur Khajuria- UP/Bihar border– Kushinagar (NH-27)	157 km	Rs 1187	4-laning completed

Kushinagar – Gorakhpur – Siddharthnagar – Shrawasti

Sr. No	Name of Stretch	Length	Approximate Cost	Status
01	Kushinagar to Gorakhpur (NH-27)	85 km	Rs. 1390 crores	4-laning completed
02	Gorakhpur to Siddharthnagar (NH-730)	98 km	Rs.396 crores	2-laning with paved shoulders completed

03	Siddharthnagar– Shrawasti (NH-730)	173 km	Rs.1130 crores	2-laning with paved shoulders completed
-----------	---	---------------	---------------------------	--

Siddharthnagar – Varanasi

Sr. No	Name of Stretch	Length	Approximate Cost	Status
01	Siddharthnagar – Basti – Tanda (NH-233):	122 km	Rs.1535 crores	2-laning with paved shoulders completed
02	Tanda– Varanasi (NH-233)	177 km	Rs.2201 crores	4-laning ongoing /completed

➤ **Varanasi to Kushinagar**

Sr.No	Name of Stretch	Length	Approximate Cost	Status
01	Varanasi – Gorakhpur (Old NH-29	222 km	Rs.2999 crores	4 laning completed (Length - 72 km) and 4 laning under ongoing(Length - 65 km)
02	Gorakhpur – Kushinagar			4 laning completed (Length - 85 km)

➤ **Varanasi to Bodhgaya**

Sr. No.	Name of Stretch	Length	Approximate Cost	Status
01	Varanasi – Dobhi (NH-2):	255 km	Rs.3312 crores	6 laning under ongoing (Length - 240 km)
02	Dobhi– Bodhgaya (Old NH-83)			4 laning under ongoing (Length - 15 km)
