

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3865
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025**

DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST TOURISM IN BOUDH, ODISHA

3865. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the budget that has been allocated and utilized for the development of Buddhist tourism in Boudh, Odisha, during the last five years and major projects and initiatives that have been undertaken during this period for the preservation, promotion and infrastructure development of Buddhist heritage sites in Boudh;**
- (b) the details of the future plans that have been formulated for the development of Buddhist tourism in Boudh during the next five years;**
- (c) the details of the estimated budget and funding sources planned for the next five years to enhance Buddhist tourism in Boudh, including contributions from the Central and State Governments as well as private sector participation; and**
- (d) the details of the measures taken/being taken by the Government to integrate Boudh into national and international Buddhist tourism circuits and to attract domestic and foreign tourists?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, is undertaken by the respective State Government/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism complements the efforts of States/UTs by developing and promoting various tourism products of the country, including Buddhist Tourism in Odisha through various schemes and initiatives.

The Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' complements the efforts of tourism

infrastructure development in the country by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations/ Central Agencies including the State of Odisha.

Ministry of Tourism has not sanctioned any project for Boudh, Odisha. The proposals for projects at identified destinations are formulated and conceptualised by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Proposals are received from States/UTs from time to time for seeking financial assistance for development of tourist spots, under the various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism. Reviewing and sanctioning of the projects is an ongoing process and is done as per procedures and requirements stipulated in the scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism undertakes various promotional activities in important and potential tourist generating markets to increase India's share of the global tourism market by showcasing India's tourism offerings including Buddhist tourism. In the year 2024 the ministry participated in international exhibitions such as Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart, Bangkok, Tourism Expo Japan (TEJ), Tokyo, Top Resa, Paris, Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) Asia, Singapore, World Travel Mart (WTM), London, FITUR, Madrid, Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB), Berlin etc., showcasing various destinations and thematic products including Buddhist tourism destinations. During participation in all such exhibitions images and promotional films on Buddhist destinations were showcased.

Ministry of Tourism has revamped Incredible India digital portal which is a comprehensive digital repository of high-quality images, films, brochures, newsletters etc. and also highlights promotional material related to Buddhist tourist circuits and destinations.
