

Year	Projects Financed	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	26	279.46
1994-95	17	239.23
1995-96	23	345.90
1996-97	26	588.89
1997-98	49	1217.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2671.20</b>

(f) Restricted Area Permits have been lifted in the case of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura only in the North Eastern States.

#### Development of Tourism in some States

1659. **SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the tourism infrastructure in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa remains undeveloped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of Central assistance made available for tourism development during each of last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to involve private sector in the development of tourism infrastructure in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG)** (a) to (c) The development of tourism infrastructure is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

The details of financial assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to the State of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during the last three years were as given below:

State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Gujarat	7.98	82.21	111.82
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	119.81
Orissa	108.86	463.28	557.05

(d) and (e) It is the policy of the Government to encourage private involvement in the tourism sector. A number of incentives like income tax concessions, interest subsidy, reduced customs duty, etc. are being provided by the Union Government for this purpose. These incentives are available to the investor in Orissa also.

#### Boosting Tourism to Religious Places

1660. **DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost tourism for religious places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of places identified for developing tourist facilities, the amount sanctioned and the target set up for development?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG)** (a) The religious places in the country are being visited by a large number of pilgrim tourists every year. The Government develops infrastructure facilities in these pilgrim centres with the combined efforts of Central and State govts., religious institutions and private sector.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee on Pilgrim tourism the following places have been identified for the development of facilities in the first phase.

1. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
2. Kamakhya (Assam) —
3. Bodh Gaya and Patna Saheb (Bihar)
4. Dwaraka, Palitana and Udwad (near Vapi Gujarat)
5. Paonta Saheb and Jwalaji (Himachal Pradesh)
6. Mata Vaishno Devi (Jammu & Kashmir)
7. Sringeri and Gulbarga (Karnataka)