

(a) the initiatives taken by Government to promote tourism in the country and for providing more and more facilities for the development of major tourist spots in the country;

(b) since Bihar is a leading State from the point of view of tourism and a number of foreign tourists visit the State every year, the number of hotels/infrastructure set up to provide them good facilities; and

(c) the details of work done for the development of Buddhist pilgrimage centres in the country particularly in Bihar and the funds spent on the same during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects on the basis of proposal received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. During the year 2008-09, the Ministry has sanctioned 237 tourism projects for Rs.907.94 crore for development and promotion of tourism in the country including the following projects at Buddhist places in Bihar:—

1. Rs. 388.97 lakh for development of Vaishali.
2. Rs. 134.87 lakh for development of Lauriya Nandan Garh, Areraj and Rampurwa as a tourist destination.
3. Rs. 158.40 lakh for development of Sujata Kutir, Bodhgaya.
4. Rs. 268.27 lakh for development of Niranjana River front and Parikarma Path.
5. Rs. 156.50 lakh for development of Prag Bodhi Dungeshwari Hill, Bodhgaya.

#### **Tourism for the common man**

1445. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps for *aam admi tourism*;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such *aam admi tourism* would come for the poor people like SC/ST in Andhra Pradesh forest and tourism areas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects including rural tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. The projects, especially the ones sanctioned in rural tourism sites, promote inclusive tourism in the country including Andhra Pradesh.