

this initiative, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are extended Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under the scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits' for the setting up of Caravan Parks.

Further, in order to improve connectivity to inaccessible tourist places in the hilly and rural areas, CFA upto Rs. 75 lakh is also extended for setting up of Helipads and Heliports which will not only open up new destinations for tourism, but also provide a unique experience of heli-tourism to both foreign and domestic tourists.

Tourist destinations in Odisha

4581. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of names of tourist destinations in Odisha, as on date;
- (b) the number of tourists who visit the State annually, the details of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the steps proposed by Government to enhance the strength of tourists visiting Odisha; and
- (d) the funds allocated by Government to the State for the development of tourists destinations during the last three years and the amount utilized therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) Development, promotion and monitoring of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with them, under various tourism schemes of the Ministry.

The number of tourists, domestic and foreign, who visited Orissa during the last three years are given as under:—

Year	Domestic Tourists	Foreign Tourists
2007	5944890	41880
2008	6358445	43966
2009	6891510	45684 (Provisional)

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 88.61 Crore during the first three years of the Eleventh plan to the Government of Orissa for various tourism related projects.

Buddhist sites in country

4582. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to promote the various Buddhist sites in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has specially allocated any funds for the development of Buddhist sites in the past three years; and

(d) if so, to what extent those funds have been utilized and the target of developing Buddhist sites in the country during 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) Development, promotion and monitoring of tourist sites is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects including projects for Buddhist sites, on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. The State-wise details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism at various tourist sites including Buddhist sites, during the last three years are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Tourism projects sanctioned during the last three years
(2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Number of Project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30	14,269.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	37	10,131.06
3.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0
4.	Assam	15	4,455.39
5.	Bihar	15	3,923.60
6.	Chandigarh	14	2,858.71
7.	Chhattisgarh	6	2,427.91
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	24.88
9.	Daman and Diu	1	12.50
10.	Delhi	19	6,641.83
11.	Goa	3	4,814.91
12.	Gujarat	12	3,430.76
13.	Haryana	22	5,957.79
14.	Himachal Pradesh	25	7,648.88
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	91	15,163.90

1	2	3	4
16.	Jharkhand	10	1,155.47
17.	Kerala	29	8,692.70
18.	Karnataka	22	10,520.10
19.	Lakshadweep	1	782.73
20.	Maharashtra	11	5,890.29
21.	Manipur	25	7,344.17
22.	Meghalaya	15	3,386.32
23.	Mizoram	16	4,417.25
24.	Madhya Pradesh	37	11,991.65
25.	Nagaland	47	7,260.74
26.	Orissa	29	9,717.77
27.	Puducherry	13	2,421.66
28.	Punjab	7	3,313.94
29.	Rajasthan	19	8,565.41
30.	Sikkim	67	16,075.83
31.	Tamil Nadu	37	8,005.82
32.	Tripura	30	3,539.00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	17	7,511.72
34.	Uttarakhand	8	6,604.07
35.	West Bengal	28	9,398.06
GRAND TOTAL :		761	218,356.64

Tourists at heritage sites

4583. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the earnings from the heritage sites in the country have fallen during 2009;
- (b) if so, the details of earnings during the last three years at the major sites in the country;
- (c) to what extent the Indian and foreign tourists had reduced during the year; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve the tourist attractions at the major heritage sites in the country?