

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Government to develop Buddhist Heritage Centres in this State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Government/UT Administrations for tourism related projects including Buddhist sites which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(b) In the year 2005-06, Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda Tourist Circuit Project has been sanctioned for the total amount of Rs. 768.12 lakh.

Following projects/circuits/events and festivals have been prioritized for the State of Bihar in the year 2006-07 in consultation with the State Tourism Department, Govt. of Bihar:—

Circuit-Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir

Events-Buddha Mahotsav

(c) and (d) Yes sir. The project Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa-Development of facilities at Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udaygiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit was sanctioned in the year 2004-05 for a total amount of Rs. 740.67 lakh.

Unearthing of stupas of Ashoka period in Orissa

1524. **SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2300 years old eight stupas of Ashoka period have been unearthed in Jaipur District of Orissa recently; and

(b) the measures taken for proper excavation and preservation of the newly found treasures?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Orissan Institute of Maritime and South-East Asian Studies,

Bhubaneswar, Orissa, carried out excavations at different localities adjacent to the Langudi Hill, District Jajpur, and have brought to light five stupas ascribable to the Ashoka period (circa 3rd century B.C.). The Archaeological Survey of India has not undertaken any excavation here.

(b) The excavation was conducted systematically and the excavated remains recovered from the site were documented properly. The most important antiquities were physically cleaned and exhibited in the Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar.

Centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh

1525. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, location-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Central Government therefor during the last three years;

(c) the preservative measures adopted in respect of each such Centrally protected monuments;

(d) whether Government have received any representation from the State Governments of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh to include new temples in the list of Centrally protected monument; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) the details of centrally protected monuments/sites in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra (location-wise) are at Statement I & II respectively (See below).