

**Sufi circuits for tourists**

288. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified certain Sufi Circuits to attract both domestic and international tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has drawn any plan for infrastructure development of major sites including Madhya Pradesh, on these Sufi Circuits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide basic tourist amenities including drinking water, public conveniences etc. at all the major sites of these Sufi Circuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has appointed a National level Consultant (NLC) to identify some spiritual tourism circuits, including Sufi Circuit, for integrated development in association with the States/Union Territories for development during the 12th Plan period. The list of Sufi Circuits identified by NLC is given below:

**Circuits Identified**

1. Delhi-Fatehpur Sikri-Ajmer
2. Mumbai-Aurangabad-Shirdi
3. Sufi circuit of Bihar
4. Hyderabad -Bijapur-Gulbarga

(c) to (e) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest, including development and promotion of spiritual/pilgrim circuits are primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects including wayside amenities, identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority under various schemes of the Ministry.