

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
6.	Construction and Restoration of Shiv Temple Bandevra, Ramgarh, Baran	489.73
7.	CFA for celebration of Deepotsav during Commonwealth Games, 2010 in Jaipur	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3131.92</b>

**2011-12**

1.	CFA for Conservation and Restoration of Fresco Paintings and Murals of Nahargarh Fort, Jaipur	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>500.00</b>

**Promoting Buddhist circuits in the country**

2763. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is tremendous potential of promoting Buddhist circuits in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several foreign VVIPs including the Prime Minister of Thailand visited various places of Buddhist interest recently; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to develop Bodh Gaya, Somnath and Kushinagar, etc. to that of international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has appointed a National Level Consultant (NLC) to identify spiritual tourism circuits, including Buddhist Circuits in consultation with various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

NLC has identified following main Buddhist circuits for promotion and

development:

- (i) Dharmayatra Circuit: Bodh Gaya (Bihar) - Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)- Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh) - Piprahwa (Uttar Pradesh).
- (ii) Extended Dharmayatra Circuit: Bodh Gaya (Bihar) - Nalanda (Bihar)- Rajgir (Bihar)- Patna (Bihar)- Vaishali (Bihar)- Vikramshila (Bihar) - Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) - Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh) - Kapilvastu (Uttar Pradesh) - Sankisa (Uttar Pradesh) - Piprahwa (Uttar Pradesh).

The Prime Minister of Thailand and her delegation and the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and his delegation visited Bodh Gaya on 20th December, 2012 on their way to Delhi for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit held from 20th to 21st December, 2012 in New Delhi.

Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products including Buddhist sites and circuits are primarily the responsibilities of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to them for various tourism projects identified in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

#### **Importance of cultural and religious tourist places**

2764. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are cultural and religious places belonging to the ancient period in Tamil Nadu that are important from the view point of tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey had been conducted so far to find out the historical importance of these places from the tourism point of view;
- (d) the details of the amount allocated to develop these historical ancient places in the last two years, year-wise, State-wise and tourist-place-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to improve the facilities available in those places and also to attract more tourists to visit those places?