

Development of Buddhist tourism in the country

2923. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop Buddhist tourism in the country in a big way with a special circuit for tourists from China, Japan, Korea and Thailand on a regular basis in the Odisha and other States, in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether a beginning has been made in this direction, to help fast improve the economy of such regions in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has attempted to develop Buddhist tourism in the country including in the State of Odisha by identifying integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with the States, the private sector and other agencies. The circuits were identified for tourists from various countries including those from China, Japan, Korea and Thailand.

The following three circuits to be developed as Buddhist Circuits in the country were indentified with the help of Central Government/State Government/Private stake holders:

Circuit 1 : The Dharmayatra or the Sacred Circuit - This will be a 5 to 7 days circuit and will include visits to Gaya (Bodhgaya), Varanasi (Sarnath), Kushinagar, Piparva (Kapilvastu) with a day trip to Lumbini in Nepal.

Circuit 2 : Extended Dharmayatra or Extended Sacred Circuit or Retracing Buddha's Footsteps-This will be a 10 to 15 day circuit and will include visits to Bodhgaya (Nalanda, Rajgir, Barabar caves, Pragbodhi Hill, Gaya), Patna (Vaishali, Lauriya Nandangarh, Lauriya

Areraj, Kesariya, Patna Museum), Varanasi (Sarnath), Kushinagar, Piparva (Kapilvastu, Shravasti, Sankisa) with a day trip to Lumbini in Nepal.

Circuit 3 : Buddhist Heritage Trails (State Circuits).

- (i) Jammu and Kashmir - Ladakh, Srinagar (Harwan, Parihaspora) and Jammu (Ambaran).
- (ii) Himachal Pradesh - Dharamshala, Spiti, Kinnaur and Lahaul.
- (iii) Punjab - Sanghon.
- (iv) Haryana - Jind (Assan), Yamunanagar (Sugh).
- (v) Maharashtra -Aurangabad (Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkora Caves), Pune (Karla Caves), Mumbai (Kanheri Caves), Pune (Bhaja Caves) and Nashik (Pandavleni Caves)
- (vi) Andhra Pradesh - Amravati, Nagarjunakonda, Vizag (Borra Caves, Salihundum Caves).
- (vii) Madhya Pradesh - Sanchi, Satdhara, Andher, Sonari, Murulkurd.
- (viii) Odisha (Dhauli, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Udaygiri, Langudi, Khandagiri).
- (ix) Chhattisgarh - Sirpur.
- (x) West Bengal - Kolkata (Indian Museum)
- (xi) Sikkim - Rumtek, Enchay and other Monasteries,
- (xii) Arunachal Pradesh - Tawang and Bomdila.

Beside the above a memorandum was signed in the field of tourism on 22.01.2014 in New Delhi between Department of Tourism, Government of India of the Republic of India and the Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan. Government of India has also a

bilateral Agreement/MoU on Tourism Cooperation with Republic of Korea (South) and Thailand.

Tourist parks in the country

2924. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to set up tourism parks in the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government would take the help of private persons in setting up these parks; if so, whether locations have been finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism including setup of tourism parks in the country for holding the tourists for a longer period as well as adopting public-private partnership model for their development are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (U.T.) Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the development of various tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act

2925. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of State Government who have not taken proper care for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 along with action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(b) whether the tribal lands have been transferred in violation of rules, to the various industries and whether tribals are being uprooted from their original sites of dwelling in the name of development in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons thereof; and