

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism and Culture has identified certain areas of convergence under joint action plan for both the Ministries.

The major areas of convergence as identified by both the Ministries are given below:

1. Joint Publicity wherever Festivals of India/Food Festivals/Road Shows are organized.
2. Tourism projects related to heritage sites.
3. Clean India Campaign at ASI monuments.
4. Joint Promotion of "Incredible India".
5. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Culture and State Governments for improvement of visitor amenities at monuments and heritage sites.
6. Development of Tourist Circuits.
7. Joint action plan for tourist guide training.

Development of religious tourism

888. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has proposed to develop religious tourism in the country, particularly in Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the project-wise and State-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is also encouraging the tourism industry for their participation in floating hotels and river cruises on Ganga river and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism including religious tourism sites, like Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects prioritized every year in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

The list of tourism projects sanctioned for Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No financial assistance is given to the private tourism industry stakeholders for floating hotels or for operating river cruises. The Ministry of Tourism has given financial assistance to Government of West Bengal for Development of Ganga Heritage River Cruise for ₹ 2042.35 lakh in 2008-09.

Statement

(A) List of Tourism Projects Sanctioned for Haridwar, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand during the last three years

(₹ in Lakh)			
Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
2011-12			
1.	International Yoga Festival, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand in March, 2011	17.50	17.50
2.	Development of Haridwar-Rishikesh-Munikireti-Swargashram as Mega Circuit in Uttarakhand	541.21	270.60
2012-13			
	Nil	Nil	Nil
2013-14			
3.	Development of Eco-Tourism around Holy Darga of Hazrat Alauddin Ali Ahmed AlSabir (Sabir Kaliyar) near Haridwar in Uttarakhand	798.92	159.78

(B) List of Tourism Projects Sanctioned for Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
2011-12			
1.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2012-13			
2.	Ganga Mahotsav, Varanasi, 2012, Uttar Pradesh	15.00	15.00
3.	Celebration of Ganga Water Rally to Varanasi 2012-13, Uttar Pradesh	5.00	5.00

1	2	3	4
4.	CFA for construction of Garwa Ghat on left bank of river Ganga at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	401.32	321.06
5.	Supply and Fixing of signages for various historical places and roads in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh	389.35	311.48
2013-14			
6.	Const. of Rain Basera and Public Conveniences at Bhagwan Awadhoot Ram Sthal in Distt. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	59.37	11.87
7.	Provisions of basic tourist facilities at main Ghats of Varanasi as Mega Destination in Uttar Pradesh	1800.23	5.00

Restoration of national monuments

889. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late the expertise and capabilities of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have come in for much acclaim after the restorations of national monuments like Humayun's Tomb in Delhi;

(b) whether to overcome the fund crunch for conservation and restoration of heritage structures and monuments in the country, Government would solicit contributions from the corporate sector against tax incentives or under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); and

(c) whether presently international agencies and donors like Aga Khan Foundation are extending support to Government for conservation and restoration of heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The conservation works of protected monuments including that of Humayun's Tomb in Delhi has been widely acclaimed.

(b) Yes Sir. Under the aegis of National Culture Fund (NCF), a Trust under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India encourages Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Corporate sector, NGOs, individual donors etc. for conservation, preservation and environmental development of protected monuments and sites. All contributions to NCF are given 100% tax exemption under Section 80 G (2) of the Income Tax Act of 1961.

(c) Yes Sir. At present, international agencies like World Monument Fund and Aga Khan Foundation are providing financial and technical assistance and collaborating with ASI for conservation and restoration of heritage sites.