

(UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism do not declare any tourist destination as National Pilgrimage Centre. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them for each financial year, subject to receipt of Detailed Project Report (DPR), liquidation of Utilization Certificates against the funds released earlier, availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to scheme guidelines.

No project proposal to enhance the amenities for Sabarimala Pilgrims has been prioritised for the current financial year by the State Government of Kerala.

Mega tourism projects

2808. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has in the recent past mooted for mega tourism projects to promote tourism in the country in a big way;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has allocated such projects to West Bengal having vast potentials of tourism growth;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the action Government proposes to take to promote tourism in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) up to an amount of ₹25.00 crore for Mega Destinations and ₹50.00 crore for Mega Circuits respectively, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.* Project/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations including State of West Bengal, prioritized in consultation with them, as per the Scheme Guidelines, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

In addition to the above, five tourist circuits around specific themes to be created under a new Central Sector Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2014-15 and an amount of ₹500.00 crore has been earmarked for this purpose in the current financial year.

(c) to (e) The details of Mega Destinations/Circuits Identified/Sanctioned for the State of West Bengal is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Ganga Heritage River Cruise Circuit	2008-09	2042.35	1021.18
2.	Dooars (Jalpaiguri District)	2012-13	4668.46	2334.23
3.	Digha-Udaypur-Shankarpur-Mandarmai-Tajpur-Janput	2014-15	Identified	

Funds allocated for special area programme

2809. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated in respect of Special Area Programme and grants made to the States for the welfare of tribals have been fully utilised and target achieved;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by Government to remove the social, economic and educational backwardness of the tribals and their result and outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs administers two special area programmes namely Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and Grants under Article 275(1). Statement showing amount of funds released under these programmes and status of utilization of funds by the State Governments for the last three years and current year is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for overall development of tribal people across the country, which includes support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood etc. The major part of infrastructural development activities is carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps. A list of schemes/programmes/interventions being administered by the Ministry is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Although the figures reflected in Census 2011 indicates positive decadal growth in human development indices of STs, the same is still not at par with other social groups in the country.