

Hampi World Heritage Centre

1577. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from Hampi 'World Heritage Centre' in Karnataka, Kishkinda, Pampa Sarovar and Anegondi are the most important heritage and historical centres for our country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make these centres as Class-1 tourism centres and inspiring heritage, historical values by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of various tourism destinations & products and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. 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), availability of funds, *inter-sepriority*, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to scheme guidelines.

Ministry of Tourism does not declare any place as heritage or historic centre. This Ministry promotes India as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets.

Financial assistance to West Bengal for development of tourism

1578. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has listed special tourism sites in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of such sites and if not, whether there is some proposal to do so;

(c) how many tourism related proposals of West Bengal are pending with the Central Government; and

(d) how much amount of funds have been sanctioned/assistance given to the State of West Bengal for development of tourism during the last three years?