

**Development of Buddhist sites at Mehsi in Bihar**

†2376. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out a plan to develop the Buddhist site situated at Mehsi in order to promote tourism in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and funds are released for the projects that are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds, *inter-sepriority* and liquidation of pending utilization certificates for funds released earlier.

Details of funds allocated to the State Government of Bihar for the Development of Buddhist sites there, during the last three years are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*List of project sanctioned for the Buddhist sites during last three years*

(₹ in lakh)			
Sl. No.	Sanctioned Year	Name of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	2011-12	Nil	Nil
2.	2012-13	Development of Antichak, Vikramshila in Bihar (2012-13).	500.00
3.	2013-14	Development of Mega Destination Installation of Ropeway at Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Phase-I Rajgir, Bihar	722.41

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
4.	2013-14	Development of Basic Tourist Facilities and Site Dev. at Pragbodhi, Bodhgaya Bihar	306.02
5.	2013-14	Development of Kesariya Stupa, Lauriya and Nandangarh Stupa, Bihar	689.45
6.	2013-14	Development of Tourism Infrastructure at Patharkatti, Gaya under Destination in Bihar	500.00
7.	2013-14	Development of Basic Tourist Facilities and Site Development at Sujata Kuti, Barkrour	283.48
8.	2013-14	Development of Mega Project in Rajgir Rejuvenation of Pond and development of Infrastructure and Tourist Amenities at Pandu Pokhar, Rajgir in Bihar	1111.22
TOTAL			4112.58

#### **Promotion of Silk Route tourism**

2377. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to promote the Silk Route tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Silk Route Programme is a collaborative platform of 31 Member States dedicated to the sustainable and internationally competitive development of Silk Road tourism. The Programme aims to maximize the benefits of tourism development for local Silk Road communities, while stimulating investment and promoting the conservation of the route's natural and cultural heritage. India at present is not member of this programme. The Ministry of Tourism has received a communication dated 22.02.2015 from the UNWTO requesting for official partnership between India and the Silk Road Programme.