

Promotion and development of tourism in Buxar in Bihar

†782. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive proposal has been prepared for conservation, promotion and development of tourist places of Bihar;

(b) whether there is any plan to conserve the rich historical and religious heritage of Bihar and promote these comprehensively in view of the immense possibilities of employment in tourism;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that Buxar is a religious and mythological place where the Maharishi Vishwamitra had trained Lord Rama and Laxman in warfare skills; and

(d) if so, what is the plan to attract tourists by developing this sacred place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Conservation, promotion and development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the projects which are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and utilization of funds released earlier.

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, so far 16 projects have been sanctioned for 19591.33 Lakh to the State Government of Bihar under PIDDC (Product Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuits), Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Schemes.

In addition the State Government of Bihar has informed that a project of 160.00 Lakh for development of various river banks and tourist spots in Buxar was sanctioned by them in 2007-08. The project included development of Ramrekha Ghat, development of Kila and Museum. The project has been completed.

Medical tourism in the country

783. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and country-wise details of medical tourists who visited India in the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.