

responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing promotional activities releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets and also undertakes other promotional activities including Promotion of Medical Tourism.

However, in order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) across the country, a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted. The Board shall work as an umbrella organization that governs and promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner. The Ministry would drive the promotion of Medical & Wellness Tourism and act as a facilitator and support the medical/wellness segment in all parts of India in promoting tourism and promoting India as a medical and wellness destination.

#### **Development of Buddhist sites**

†1959. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for development of tourism at locations related to Buddhist religion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of amount which would be spent for the development of tourism at each location in this regard; and
- (d) the kind of cooperation being received from abroad for the development of these Buddhist sites, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has launched a new plan scheme Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country in the year 2014-15. Buddhist Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme. All places associated with Buddhist Heritage in the country are covered under this theme.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects including Buddhist sites in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under Buddhist Circuit theme, Ministry has sanctioned projects "Construction of Cultural Centre at Bodhgaya, Bihar" for ₹33.17 crore in 2014-15 and "Development of Buddhist Circuit in Sanchi-Satna- Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar in Madhya Pradesh" for ₹74.94 crore in 2016-17.

(d) The details of projects carried out with foreign assistance for development of Buddhist sites during the last five years is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of projects carried out with foreign assistance for development of  
Buddhist sites during the last five years*

1. **Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase-II) 2003-2014:** A loan agreement for an amount equivalent to 7331 million JPY was signed between Government of India and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in March 2003 for the above project. The places covered under the project were Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad, Daultabad, Patnadevi, Lonar in Maharashtra. The project was completed in July 2014 and the total expenditure incurred on the project is ₹250.30 crore approx.
2. **Designing of comprehensive plan for upgradation of Buddhist sites in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.** The Ministry of Tourism, Govt, of India, the Departments of Tourism of the Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (World Bank Group) had entered into an agreement for advisory services in October 2013 for designing and implementing a comprehensive plan for upgradation of Buddhist sites in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The work on the project is over and the strategy formulated by IFC "**Investing in Buddhist circuit-2014-2018**" was released in July 2014. The total cost of project was ₹4.50 crore of which the share of Ministry of Tourism was 50%, IFC 40% and the States of Bihar and UP was 5% each.

**Decline in inflow of foreign tourists**

†1960. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the inflow of foreign tourists into India has registered a decline;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this decline and the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.