

extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects submitted by them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority, submission of Utilisation Certificates for projects sanctioned earlier and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched two new Central Sector Plan Schemes, (a) Swadesh Darshan Scheme- Integrated Development of Theme Based Tourist Circuits; and (b) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme for integration of Pilgrim tourist destinations.

The State of Odisha has been sanctioned the following projects:

During the financial year 2014-15, under the PRASAD Scheme the project for Infrastructure development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham- Ramachandi-Prachi River Front at Deuli was sanctioned for ₹ 50.00 crore. During the current financial year under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Coastal Circuit the project for Development of Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara has been sanctioned for ₹ 76.49 crore.

#### **Tourism project in Amritsar**

1750. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any tourism project underway or proposed in Amritsar by Government;
- (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) Yes, The Ministry has sanctioned two projects for Amritsar as given below:-

- (1) Mega Circuit, Amritsar-Dera Baba Nanak- Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab which was sanctioned in the year 2014-15 for ₹ 4796.98 lakh under Product Infrastructure Development at Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) Scheme.
- (2) Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal in Amritsar in the State of Punjab at a total cost of ₹ 6.45 crore under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme in the year 2015-16.

#### **Increasing foreign tourists**

1751. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting the country during the period 2014-2016, which are the top five States consistently