

Development of Ramayana and Buddhist Circuits in Bihar

†3818. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate any special scheme for the development of Ramayana Circuit and Buddhist Circuit in order to promote tourism in Bihar;

(b) whether Government has allocated funds for development of basic infrastructure in order to provide better facilities to the pilgrims; and

(c) the details of Government's scheme to attract domestic tourists to various religious places in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched two schemes in 2014-15 *i.e.* Swadesh Darshan-Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD-Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development including Spiritual, Buddhist, Ramayana and Krishna Circuits. Under PRASAD Scheme, 25 religious sites/cities have been identified for development in the country.

*Details of the projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD
Schemes in Bihar*

(₹ in crore)				
Sl. No.	Scheme	Name of the Circuit	Name of the Project/Sanction Year	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	PRASAD	—	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad Temple, Gaya, Bihar (2014-15)	4.27
2.	PRASAD	—	Development of Patna Sahib (2015-16)	41.54
3.	Swadesh Darshan	Spiritual Circuit	Development of Jain Circuit in Bihar: Vaishali-Arrah-Masad-Patna-Rajgir-Pawapuri-Champaruri as Spiritual Circuit in Bihar (2016-17)	52.39

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Swadesh Darshan	Spiritual Circuit	Integrated Development of Kanwaria route: Sultanganj-Dharmshala-Deoghar as Spiritual Circuit in Bihar (2016-17)	52.35
5.	Swadesh Darshan	Buddhist Circuit	Construction of Cultural Centre adjacent to Maya Sarovar on the western side at Bodhgaya, Bihar (2016-17)	98.73
TOTAL				249.28

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination as part of its on-going activities, releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the domestic and international markets, under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote tourism products and destinations of the country including pilgrimage sites. MoT also promotes the tourism destinations and products through its websites and publicity and promotional material produced by it from time to time.

Potential of rural tourism

†3819. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge potential for the development of rural tourism in the country;

(b) the State-wise/Union Territory-wise number of districts/villages in the country especially in Bihar and Jharkhand identified and developed as the places of rural tourism;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal/suggestions from States/Union Territories in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Recognising the huge potential for the development of rural tourism in the country including in Bihar and Jharkhand, Ministry of Tourism has identified Rural Circuit as one of the 13 thematic circuits under Swadesh Darshan

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