

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to send project proposals for consideration during the current financial year. Identification and sanction of projects is a continuous process. Tourism projects are sanctioned based on consultations with the State Governments, availability of funds and their *inter-se* priority.

(c) and (d) The following development works have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh as part of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi tourist circuit during 2002-03:

Sl. No.	Items of work	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Development of facilities and landscaping around Maharani Laxmi Bai Memorial, Varanasi	90.00
2.	Development of Dhammacakkapavattana Udyan at Sarnath	200.00
3.	Signages	5.00
TOTAL		295.00

Preservation of caves in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

1761. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India has been drawn to set of rock cut caves belonging to Megalithic period in some districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No Megalithic caves have been reported from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.