

and Himalayan circuit for Northern region which includes Leh in Jammu & Kashmir have been identified for development.

(b) During the current financial year a sum of Rs.22.50 crores has been earmarked as lump sum amount for the schemes/projects including tourism promotion of North Eastern region. A sum of Rs.106 crores has been released during the year to J&K for various ongoing tourism schemes/projects.

Development of Baleshwar City

†746. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are places in the country which although of mythological, religious and historical importance have yet not been developed as tourist spots;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Baleshwar city in Beh Tehsil in District Agra is one such place of mythological, historical and religious importance, but it has not been developed from tourism point of view so far; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking steps with the help of State Government for its development as a tourist spot?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) India has a large number of mythological, religious and historical places. Development and maintenance of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations concerned. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance every year for development and improvement of infrastructure facilities at tourist places including places of mythological, religious and historical importance identified in consultation with them.

(b) and (c) There is no place known as Baleshwar city as well as Beh Tehsil in Agra district. However, during 9th Plan Department of Tourism has sanctioned two projects i.e. Flood Lighting at Bateshwar Temple and Integrated Development of Bateshwar in Agra involving an amount of Rs.55.00 lakhs and Rs.17.50 lakhs have already been released.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.