

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
TOURIST SITES
Singh Shri Rama Kishore

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourist sites have been categorised grade-wise in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of tourist sites covered under Buddhist circuit and developed as world heritage tourist sites during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has any tourism related proposals for Vaishali in Bihar including financial assistance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): Madam. At present there is no grade wise categorization of tourist sites.

(b): The Ministry of Tourism has identified following three circuits to be developed as Buddhist Circuits in the country with the help of Central Government/State Government/Private stake holders:

Circuit 1: The Dharmayatra or the Sacred Circuit - This will be a 5 to 7 days circuit and will include visits to Gaya (Bodhgaya), Varanasi (Samath), Kushinagar, Piparva (Kapilvastu) with a day trip to Lumbini in Nepal.

Circuit 2: Extended Dharmayatra or Extended Sacred Circuit or Retracing Buddha's Footsteps - This will be a 10 to 15 day circuit and will include visits to Bodhgaya (Nalanda, Rajgir, Barabar caves, Pragbodhi Hill, Gaya), Patna (Vaishali, Lauriya Nandangarh, Lauriya Areraj, Kesariya, Patna Museum), Varanasi (Samath), Kushinagar, Piparva (Kapilvastu, Shrivasti, Sankisa) with a day trip to Lumbini in Nepal.

Circuit 3: Buddhist Heritage Trails (State Circuits).

i. Jammu and Kashmir - Ladakh, Srinagar (Harwan, Parihaspora) and Jammu (Ambaran).

ii. Himachal Pradesh - Dharamshala, Spiti, Kinnaur and Lahaul.

iii. Punjab - Sanghon.

iv. Haryana - Jind (Assan), Yamunanagar (Sugh).

v. Maharashtra -Aurangabad (Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkora Caves), Pune (Karla Caves), Mumbai (Kanheri Caves), Pune (Bhaja Caves) and Nashik (Pandavleni Caves).

vi. Andhra Pradesh - Amravati, Nagarjunakonda, Vizag (Borra Caves, Salihundum Caves).

vii. Madhya Pradesh - Sanchi, Satdhara, Andher, Sonari, Murulkurd.

viii. Odisha (Dhaulti, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Udaygiri, Langudi, Khandagiri).

ix. Chhattisgarh - Sirpur.

x. West Bengal - Kolkata (Indian Museum)

xi. Sikkim - Rumtek, Enchay and other Monasteries.

xii. Arunachal Pradesh -Tawang and Bomdila.

Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodh Gaya is the World Heritage Site.

(c) and (d): Details of proposal for development of tourism in Vaishali district of Bihar is given in Annexure.