

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

GRADING AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS

4322. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state

- (a) the details as to how often the National Monuments Authority(NMA) makes recommendations to the Government for grading and classifying protected monuments and protected areas and the action taken by the Government on these recommendations;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Lepakshi Temples, Gandikota Grand Canyon and Fort, Belum Caves, Guntupalli Buddhist Site and Buddhist monuments of Salihundam in Andhra Pradesh are places of historical and cultural importance ;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to forward the names of any of these sites as their nomination for including in the UNESCO's World Heritage List;
- (d) whether natural calamities such as flooding and increased air pollution is damaging our ancient monuments and buildings; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to preserve important monuments and buildings that have not yet been declared as protected monuments?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) The National Monuments Authority (NMA), in terms of Section 4A of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, makes recommendations to the Government from time to time, for classifying protected Monuments and protected areas of national importance as per categories prescribed under Schedule to Rule 6 of NMA Rules, 2011, having regard to the outstanding universal value including the historical, archaeological, architectural value and such other relevant factors. The Central

Government, thereafter notifies the same in the official gazette and also exhibits it on its official web-site and also in such other manner as it may deem fit, for the benefit of the public and agencies in the interest of protection and preservation of these protected monuments and protected areas of National importance.

In the year, 2022 Lepakshi Temples has already been included in the Tentative List which is pre-requisite condition for onward inclusion in the UNESCO's World Heritage Inscription process.

(d) & (e) Yes, environmental impacts such as flooding and air pollution is causing damage to our ancient monuments and buildings.

If any proposal is received by Archaeological Survey of India to preserve the unprotected monuments and buildings. The steps are taken to mitigate the effects of air pollution by adopting various conservation and preservation methodologies such as Scientific cleaning, Clay pack, Paper pulp and Hydrophobic treatment.
