

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5345
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
BILATERAL RESEARCH PROJECT
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Guwahati University alongwith an Italian NGO which was asked by UNESCO has taken up a bilateral research projec on preservation of cultural heritage of Majuli Island;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to begin;
- (c) whether Majuli is considered a cultural treasure trove;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union government for assistance; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. UNESCO has informed that a fact finding mission had been under taken by an Italian expert in January, 2003 representing a Dutch NGO in collaboration with UNESCO to assess and exchange knowhow on cultural heritage and territorial management of landscapes. No information regarding the participation of Guwahati University.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Majuli island has immense cultural heritage both tangible and intangible, preserved in the Vaishnavite monasteries.
- (e) & (f) On request from the Government of Assam, Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs.10 lakh for Government of Assam to carry out a feasibility study for development of Majuli island as a tourist resort.