

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4126
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
BAN ON BRICK KILNS AROUND TAJ
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

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

- (a) whether brick kilns are causing harm to heritage sites;
- (b) if so, whether the kilns were banned in Agra to protect the Taj;
- (c) if so, whether a Commission was constituted for this purpose;
- (d) if so, whether the Commission has recommended opening of the brick kilns in the prohibited areas;
- (e) if so, whether this would not cause harm to Taj; and
- (f) the reasons for granting such permission?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a)&(b) Yes, Sir. As per the direction of the Supreme Court the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) project has been formulated to regulate the proliferation of environmentally unfriendly industries such as brick kilns. The Supreme Court has prohibited brick kilns from functioning within a radius of 20 kms from significant monuments in Agra.
- (c) A joint inspection committee was formed as per the directions of the Supreme Court to find out whether brick kilns were following the standards fixed by the Central Pollution Control Board and to verify the distance of the brick kilns from the significant monuments.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Question does not arise.
- (f) Question does not arise.