

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:695

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005

UPKEEP OF MONUMENTS

Agarwal Shri Dharendra;Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to protect our heritage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of existing provisions to protect our heritage; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to attract more tourists and provide sufficient infrastructure at the heritage sites?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)to(d) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protects, conserves and maintains heritage monuments and sites under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act).

Section 4 of the Act empowers the ASI to declare ancient monuments to be of national importance. The provisions of the AMASR Act and Rules made thereunder also provide for maintenance of the monuments, their protection, protection of antiquities and for penalties for contravention of the statutory provisions.

(e) Various tourist related amenities like drinking water, toilets, pathways, interpretation centres, publication counters and facilities for physically challenged are provided in the centrally protected monuments to attract more tourists.