

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1711

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005

TAJ MAHAL

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Jai Prakash Shri ;Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board has recently declared historic monument Taj Mahal as Waqf property;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Chairman U.P. Sunni Central Wakf Board, vide his order dated 13.7.2005 has directed Chief Executive Officer of the Wakf Board to register Taj Mahal as a Wakf property under section 36 & 40 of the Wakf Act, 1995.

(c) The Taj Mahal is a centrally protected monument managed by the Archaeological Survey of India. It is a national property, also inscribed in the World Heritage list. The Union Government will challenge the claim of the Sunni Central Wakf Board in the Supreme Court of India by filing a Special Leave Petition.