

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2947
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF TAJ
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the UNESCO has expressed concern on the structural safety of the Taj and its minarets;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the structural safety of the Taj and its minarets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken or being taken to overcome any threat to the world heritage monument?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India, has not received any communication from UNESCO expressing concern on the safety of Taj and its minarets. After the controversial "Taj Corridor Project", the UNESCO experts visited the site in January, 2004 and submitted a report, wherein the UNESCO team has expressed their satisfaction over the maintenance and preservation of Taj Mahal

(c) Various scientific /technical organizations have conducted studies from time to time to assess the structural safety of the Taj and its minarets.

(i) Survey for the verticality of the minarets has been carried out since 1940 at different intervals by the Survey of India. In February 2005, Geodetic and Research Branch of Survey of India, Dehradun was requested to ascertain the stability of Taj Mahal and its minarets. They took various planimetric and vertical control observations. Their report has since been received wherein it is concluded that Taj Mahal and its minarets are quite stable in plan as well as in elevation.

(ii) Studies related to stress analysis, geotechnical aspects and safety against seismic forces was conducted by University of Roorkee, Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Earthquake Engineering from 1989 to 1991.

(iii) Studies for geophysical aspects and stability has been conducted by National Geophysical Research Institute Hyderabad in 1993.

(iv) Recently the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee has been entrusted with the studies related to foundation and superstructure of the Taj Mahal. The project proposal of CBRI is already approved costing Rs.30.00 lakhs and the studies are in progress.

From the different studies it can be concluded that there is no threat to structural stability of the monument. Every care is being taken for regular maintenance and repairs of the minarets and the monument.