

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4106
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
CAKKUNAI TEMPLES IN KARNATAKA
Shivanna Shri M

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

(a)whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that the 800 years old Cakkunai Temples in Gadag district of Karnataka whose sculptures are compared with Halebedu and Belur have been completely ignored by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b)if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c)the steps taken by the Union Government for the development of these temples as tourist centre?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) There is no place Cakkunai in Gadag district, and the reference may be to Lakkundi of Gadag district where 7 temples have been protected as monuments of national importance and are conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India. In respect of two monuments namely Kumbareshwara and Naganatha temples, a court case is pending for evacuation of persons to whom compensation has already been paid through the State Revenue Department. All the other five monuments are well maintained and conserved as per archaeological norms.

(c)Apart from regular conservation, preservation and development of environs, the centrally protected monuments are provided with tourist facilities like toilets, drinking water, wheel chair for physically handicapped persons, guide books, cultural notice boards, etc.