

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2482

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006

DAMAGE TO ANCIENT FORT AT GONDKALIN CHANDRAPUR .

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Union Government is aware that ancient fort at Gondkalin Chandrapur city in Maharashtra has suffered damage due to illegal construction by municipality as reported in 'Navbharat', Nagpur dated July 2, 2006;
- (b) If so, whether the Municipality has taken clearance from Archaeological Survey of India for construction adjacent to the fort;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in the matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) As reported, the Chandrapur Municipality has constructed a weir of one metre height with four gates across the Jharpat river for storage of water adjoining the bastion of the fortification wall of Gondraja Tombs, Chandrapur, a centrally protected monument. As a result water is getting stored near the bastion which may damage the fort and also the Achaleshwar Temple inside the fort.
- (b)&(c) No permission has been obtained by the Municipality from the Archaeological Survey of India for construction of weir adjacent to the fort.
- (d) The matter was brought to the notice of the Municipal Corporation and District Collector, Chandrapur with a request not to construct the wall but despite the same, the weir was constructed by the Municipal Corporation, Chandrapur. The matter is pending with District Collector and if no action is initiated at his level, Archaeological Survey of India may initiate legal action against the Municipal Corporation, Chandrapur under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.