

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4281
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
NATIONAL MISSION ON MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) Whether the Government is planning to launch a National Mission on monuments and Antiquities;
- (b) If so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) The time by which the said mission is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIOKA SONI)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has been proposed with a view to document the antiquarian and monumental wealth of the country.

The main objective of the Mission are as under:

- (i) Mission would develop a comprehensive database for unprotected built heritage, sites and antiquities.
- (ii) Selected unprotected monuments will be taken up for conservation in a sustainable manner.
- (iii) Mission would inculcate and promote awareness on built heritage and antiquarian wealth among the masses.
- (iv) Mission would initiate capacity building among State Archeology Departments and NGOs in heritage protection and preservation, and
- (v) Initiative would be taken to strengthen communication and dissemination levels of information through popular literature and publications.

The work of the Mission will be taken up on a project mode by involving State Departments of Archeology and Museums. Professional Organisations/ Institutions, Universities, NGO's ect. The proposed National Mission is for a period of five years starting from 2006-2007 to 2010-11 with a total budgetary outley of Rs,90.00 crores.

(c) The Expenditure Finance Committee has already met on 07.03.2006 and recommended the Mission for approval. Mission is now under consideration of the Government for final approval, on receipt of which the Mission activities will be launched.