

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4316  
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004  
MAHABODHI TEMPLE AS INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE  
Manjhi Shri Rajesh Kumar

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

- (a) whether UNESCO accredited Mahabodhi Temple situated in Bodh Gaya in Bihar as an International Heritage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is proposing to arrange some international cultural festival in Bodh Gaya;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to promote international tourism in that place?

**Answer**

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

- (a)&(b) Yes, Sir. World Heritage Committee of UNESCO inscribed Mahabodhi Temple complex at Bodh Gaya in Bihar on the World Heritage List in 2002 as it is one of the earliest temple constructions existing in the sub-continent and it has significant influence in the developments of architecture over the centuries. The temple provides exceptional records for the events associated with the life of Buddha. The present temple is one of the most imposing structures built entirely in brick from the late Gupta period.
- (c)&(d) No such programme is envisaged by the Ministry of Culture at this stage.
- (e) Various tourist amenities have been provided at Bodh Gaya by the State Government. Bodh Gaya is connected by Air, Rail, and Road. There is also direct flight from Bangkok to Gaya.