

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1430

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004

WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN INDIA

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Marndi Shri Sudam;Meghwal Shri Kailash;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether World Heritage Committee has given some guidelines for better management and regional development planning of the World Heritage properties in India;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to submit its report to the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in February 1, 2005;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether several heritage buildings need special attention and need saviour for their protection;
- (f) If so, the details thereof, monument-wise; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the historical monuments in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The World Heritage Committee has recommended formulation of comprehensive site management plans for cultural sites, viz, group of monuments at Hampi, Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhgaya, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, to address conservation and management issues.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. As required under the operational guidelines laid down by World Heritage Committee status of conservation of above mentioned sites is required to be submitted before 1st February, 2005. Requisite report on conservation measures and development activities undertaken is being formulated for onward transmission to World Heritage Centre.

(e)to(g) Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3652 notified monuments/sites of national importance all over the country as per provisions of the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Besides, about 5000 monuments/sites are protected and maintained by State Archaeology Departments all over the country. However, a large number of monuments/sites/heritage buildings still remains unprotected nation-wide and need protection and preservation. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has formulated National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities with the objective of documenting and preparing a National Register of built heritage sites. Archaeological Survey of India will act as National Nodal Agency for execution of the mission and requisite action to implement the Mission has been initiated.