

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1044

ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008

DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the survey conducted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, nearly sixty thousand monuments across the country are at nature's mercy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the same;
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government for renovating these monuments and the amount estimated to be spent thereon; and
- (e) the time by which such monuments are proposed to be renovated?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (c) As per information available from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) the figure of 60,000 monuments is an estimate based on available literature. INTACH has a catalogue of about 30,000 monuments, largely unprotected.

(d) to (e) No central legislation currently exists for conservation and protection of unprotected heritage. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes care of 3675 monuments and sites that have been declared as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Besides, the ASI has a scheme for financial assistance for preservation of monuments less than 100 years old. Various State Governments also protect monuments under their respective legislations.