

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2533  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004  
CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARY OF TAJ MAHAL  
Meghwal Shri Kailash;Singh Shri Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for celebrating 350th Anniversary of the Taj Mahal in Agra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also formulating any scheme to sanitise the Taj Mahal and its surroundings, provide public utilities and for environmental protection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Supreme Court of India has allowed the viewing of the Taj Mahal by tourists during moonlight; and
- (f) if so, the number of domestic and foreign tourists expected to visit the Taj on this occasion?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. To celebrate 350 years of Taj Mahal, six cultural events have been proposed. Of these, Musical programme at Agra Fort and cultural events at Fatehpur Sikri were organised by Government of Uttar Pradesh on 28.10.2004 and 1.11.2004, respectively. Discussions to finalise the details of the remaining programmes are underway.

(c)&(d) The Government has taken up the following measures for the security of Taj Mahal and providing public amenities and environmental protection:-

- (i) The internal security of Taj Mahal is looked after by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The external security is looked after by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) Tourist facilitation centres with provision for toilets, drinking water, souvenir shops, interpretation centre etc. are being provided in the area adjacent to the east and west gates of the Taj Mahal.
- (iii) Development and maintenance of Mehtab Bagh as a part of developing green belt around the Taj Mahal. The stretch of land between the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort is maintained as a green belt by the Agra Development Authority.
- (iv) Regular monitoring of the Suspended Particle Material (SPM) level in and around the Taj Mahal.
- (v) Restrictions on the movement of petrol and diesel vehicles within a radius of 500 metres of the Taj Mahal.

In addition to the above, other pollution control measures, like shifting of polluting industries are being implemented by the UP Government.

(e)&(f) Yes, Sir. On 27th and 28th November 2004, following number of tourists visited Taj Mahal during moonlit nights:

27th Nov., 04      28th Nov.04

Indian 229 204  
Foreigner 49 119  
Children 23 24