

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5298
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
NATIONAL PILGRIM CENTRES
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Pilgrimage Centres in the country;
- (b) the norms followed for declaring the centres;
- (c) whether the Government has received request from State Government of Kerala for declaring Sabarimala Sastha Temple as a National Pilgrim Centre; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

- (a) There is no provision for declaration of National Pilgrim Centres under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. However, the Central Government has declared 3675 monuments and archaeological sites and remains as of national importance across the country under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, which includes temples, mosques, churches, forts, palaces, caves, inscriptions, etc.
- (b) Under the provisions of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, monuments/ sites which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and have been in existence for not less than 100 years may be declared by the Central Government to be of national importance, through a notification in the Gazette of India.
- (c) No such request has been received in the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- (d) Does not arise.