

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:406

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing legal framework for protection of monuments in the county;
- (b) the details of the unprotected monuments in the country, State- wise and circle-wise;
- (c) the details of financial assistance given to the States during the last two years for preservation of unprotected monuments along with the details of amount spent during the last two years and the current year; monument-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive legislation for conservation and protection of all monuments in the county; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.406 FOR 25-08-2010

Except for those monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are declared by law to be of national importance, others fall under the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Central and the respective State Governments, therefore, have jurisdiction and responsibility over the unprotected archaeological sites and remains. Keeping in view the spirit of the provision, the Central Government has declared 3675 archaeological sites and remains as monuments of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The State Governments and local bodies have also enacted laws for the protection and conservation of monuments, archaeological sites and remains for the monuments other than those declared as of national importance by the Central Government(Annexure-I) and under the respective laws 3573 monuments and archaeological sites and remains have been declared as protected by various States, till 2007 (Annexure-II).

No comprehensive survey of unprotected monuments in the country has been undertaken by any agency including the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), though the ASI has, in the past, carried out sporadic village-to-village explorations in some of the Districts and Talukas of certain States to find out the antiquarian remains which are duly published in the Indian Archaeology-A Review, an annual publication of the ASI. Some listing of unprotected monuments, archaeological sites and remains has also been attempted by the State Departments of Archaeology and NGOs like INTACH. A State-wise list of the unprotected monuments as per the available data is at Annexure-III.

The Central Government has launched the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to create a national database for all the monuments/sites irrespective of whether these are protected or otherwise. The NMMA has so far created a data base of about 80000 built heritage and about 2 lakh antiquities.

The Central Government has also introduced the National Heritage Sites Commission Bill in the Rajya Sabha on 26-02-2009 with the defined function to tender advice to the Government on heritage matters, frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites, study and cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government and suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, after examination of the draft bill, has made certain observations.

The Archaeological Survey of India does not operate any major scheme to provide financial assistance for conservation and preservation of unprotected monuments. However, modest financial assistance not exceeding to Rs.5 lacs is provided for the repairs and maintenance of the heritage buildings which are less than 100 years old. The Finance Commission has also recommended grants for heritage conservation to various States as per the details at Annexure-IV.