

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3499

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

UNPROTECTED MONUMENTS/HERITAGE SITES

Mahato Shri Narahari;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath;Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of historical monuments and heritage sites have remained unprotected for the past many years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and circle-wise;
- (c) the mechanism under which the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State Governments and local bodies have undertaken the protection and conservations of monuments and archaeological sites, other than those declared to be of national importance;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Heritage Sites Commission to look into the matter;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the Commission is likely to be set up?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A comprehensive survey of unprotected monuments in the country has not been undertaken by any agency, though the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has, in the past, carried out sporadic village-to-village surveys in some districts and talukas of certain States, to find out the antiquarian remains. The findings have been published, from time to time, in the "Indian Archaeology- A Review", an annual publication of the ASI. Some listings of unprotected monuments, archaeological sites and remains has also been attempted by the State Departments of Archaeology and NGOs like INTACH. A State-wise indicative list of the unprotected monuments, as per the available data, is at Annexure.

(d) & (e) The National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26.2.2009. The bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) for examination and the PSC has submitted its 150th Report to the Chairman Rajya Sabha, containing a number of observations, conclusions and recommendations. The formulation/ drafting of official amendments based on report of PSC is at hand in consultation with various stakeholders such as Archaeological Survey of India, NGOs and individuals experts.

(f) It is not possible to indicate any time frame for establishment of the National Commission, at this stage.