

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3589
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
DISAPPEARANCE OF HERITAGE SITES
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the deterioration of slow disappearance of urban heritage sites in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken for renovation by the Government to save these heritage sites; and
- (d) the financial allocation for this purpose during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. Major causes for disappearance of the heritage sites are rapid urbanization, construction of multistoreyed residential and commercial buildings, and infrastructure development projects. In so far as the ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance are concerned, the Central Government enacted the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010, which has more stringent provisions to control and regulate construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated areas of the centrally protected monuments/sites and penal provisions have also been enhanced from three months imprisonment to two years or with fine from five thousand rupees to one lakh rupees or both for causing damage, alteration, misuse and other acts of similar nature at centrally protected monuments and protected areas thereof. These measures constitute a major governmental initiative to arrest encroachments/pressures on the monuments and sites that are declared as of national importance.

The expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation, maintenance by way of structural repairs, chemical treatment and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in the country during the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under:

Year Amount
(Rs.. in lakhs)

2007-08	12886.19
2008-09	13498.60
2009-10	15300.43
2010-11	13590.00
(Allocation)	