

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3105
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
PROMOTION OF ANCIENT TEMPLES
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to popularise several lesser known ancient temples in the country including in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop infrastructure around these temples to facilitate the visit of more devotees?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India(ASI) is in charge of protection and maintenance of the centrally protected monuments/sites including temples which have been declared so under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 in the country. In the State of Tamil Nadu, 413 monuments/sites are declared as of monument of national importance. The conservation, preservation and environmental development of the protected monuments is an ongoing process which is undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India as per archaeological norms. ASI is also providing tourist related amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, etc.) at the centrally protected monuments/sites as per the needs and availability of resources.