

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5312
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
CLAY PACK TREATMENT ON MONUMENTS
Dhurve Jyoti

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of historical monuments in the country on which the Government /Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has used clay pack treatment to give them face-lifts;
- (b) the reasons behind the use of the said technique;
- (c) whether the use of clay pack treatment on the said monuments has yielded the desired results particularly on the Taj Mahal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to use the same technique on more monuments in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the use of this technique is in conformity with ASI's conservation Manual, UNESCO convention and other International Charters; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) & (b): Archaeological Survey of India has used clay pack treatment in the recent past, for removal of accretionary deposits, at Moti Masjid at Agra Fort, Sheikh Salim Chisti's tomb at Fatehpur Sikri, Diwane-e-Am, Dewane-e-Khas & Shahburj at Red Fort, Delhi and Victoria Memorial at Kolkata. This method is used because it is non-abrasive, non-corrosive and very effective to remove deposits from marble surfaces.

(c) to (f): Yes Madam. The adherent accretionary deposits were successfully removed from marble surfaces. Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process and same technique will be applied to clean the marble surfaces at different monuments as and when the necessity arises.

(g) & h): Yes Madam. This technique is internationally recognized and conforms to guidelines in conservation Manual / International Charters.