

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
PROMOTION OF ANCIENT TEMPLES
Rani Killi Krupa

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 Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of 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 HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER 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 Andhra Pradesh, 137 monuments/sites are declared as of monument of national importance. The conservation, preservation and environmental development of the protected monuments including visitors' facility 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.