

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:266  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011  
CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE SITES  
Biju Shri P. K.;Saroj Shri Tufani

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the National Heritage Sites under protection/conservation by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State-wise;
- (b) whether adequate funds have been provided for their maintenance and if so, the details thereof including the present status of preservation/conservation;
- (c) the details of such sites given facelift for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 alongwith the expenditure incurred in this regard;
- (d) whether any site is presently under consideration for declaration as National Heritage Sites;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures being taken to ensure that National Heritage Sites are adequately preserved for the future generation?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.266 FOR 13.12.2011

There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 to declare or recognize National Heritage Sites. However, Archaeological Survey of India looks after 3,677 monuments/sites that are declared as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The State-wise list is at Annexure-I.

The conservation, preservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process, on need basis as per archaeological norms, subject to the availability of resources. Although the funds are provided for conservation of protected monuments, considering the enormity of the task of conservation, preservation and maintenance of monuments/sites of national importance, the Archaeological Survey of India needs additional resources in terms of manpower and funds. The allocation for the current financial year is Rs.130.35 crores out of which expenditure upto 15.11.2011 is Rs.96.16 crores.

The Archaeological Survey of India had identified 46 centrally protected monuments in Delhi for conservation and development which are either popular among tourists or are located on main routes associated with the Commonwealth Games. The works included structural conservation, chemical preservation, environmental development, public amenities, illumination, signage, etc. The details of sites where conservation work was attended during Commonwealth Games, 2010 and expenditure incurred are at Annexure-II. Twenty-five monuments/sites are under consideration for declaration as of national importance, the details are at Annexure-III.

The Central Government has launched the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to create a national database for all the monuments/sites irrespective of whether these are protected or otherwise. The NMMA has so far created a data base of about 80000 built heritage and about 2 lakh antiquities.

The Central Government has also introduced the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill in the Rajya Sabha on 26.2.2009 with the defined function to tender advice to the Government on heritage matters, frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites, study and cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage.

The Central Government has launched the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) in 2007 to create a national database for all the monuments/sites irrespective of whether these are protected or otherwise. The NMMA has so far created a data base of about 80000 built heritage and about 2 lakh antiquities.

The Central Government has also introduced the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill in the Rajya Sabha on 26.2.2009 with the defined function to tender advice to the Government on heritage matters, frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites, study and cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage.