

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7459
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
CONDITION OF ASHOKA PILLAR
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the dilapidated state of the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any corrective steps in this regard including carrying out investigations by archaeologists;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to conserve the heritage structures situated at Sarnath including the Ashoka Pillar?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d) The Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh is kept under a shed to protect it from weathering agencies and provided with a grill fencing to safeguard it from any vandalism and it is in a good state of preservation. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is monitoring its condition regularly.
- (e) The conservation work of centrally protected monuments at Sarnath including the Ashoka Pillar is attended regularly depending upon the need of the repairs and availability of resources. The conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process.