

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:147

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) the details of the cultural heritage centers and heritage spots identified in the various parts of the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State and location wise;
- (b) the number of proposals received by the Union Government/Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from the various States for inclusion, preservation and conservation of these sites along with the present status thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the States which have requested to provide separate grants for maintenance of heritage structures and the action taken thereon, State-wise;
- (d) the number of cultural heritage centers preserved and maintained in the country along with the funds sanctioned, released and utilised for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government/ASI for promotion of such preserved cultural heritage in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 147 FOR 4.12.2012

(a) to (e) There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 to declare or recognize Cultural Heritage Centres and heritage spots. However, as per section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, ancient monuments or archaeological sites and remains, as the case may be, which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest, and have been in existence for not less than 100 years, may be declared by the Central Government as of national importance.

3678 monuments/sites have been declared as of national importance in the country. A State-wise Abstract is placed at Annexure-I. Protected monuments/sites under ASI are conserved, preserved and maintained by way of structural repairs on need basis, as per archaeological norms, subject to availability of resources. These centrally protected monuments/sites are in a fairly good state of preservation. In addition to conservation, preservation, maintenance and development of environs in and around centrally protected monuments, providing tourist related amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) at the centrally protected monuments/sites are the regular activities which the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes as per needs and availability of resources. The State-wise expenditure incurred for conservation, preservation and maintenance of these monuments/sites during the last three years and allocation for the current year (2012-13) is at Annexure-II. The actual expenditure on conservation in 2012-13 till 15/11/2012 is Rs.97.86 crores

Recognising that States have specific issues and local needs, the XIII Finance Commission has recommended a quantum of grants amounting to Rs. 1454.00 crore to 21 States for the development of Heritage and Culture for the period 2011-2015. These recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry of Finance. Based on the proposals received from the State Governments, Ministry of Culture recommended the release of grants to 15 States against which Ministry of Finance have so far released a total of Rs. 285.02 crore to 13 States. Grants to the remaining 6 States were not recommended / released due to non-receipt of proposals and working plans. A statement indicating these details is placed at Annexure III.