

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2439
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HERITAGE SITE
Suvendu Shri Adhikari

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has constituted/proposes to constitute a National Commission for Heritage Site;
- (b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is regularly organizing cultural awareness programmes to create awareness among the students of schools and colleges in response to the gradual cultural degradation in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a) and (b) The National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 which inter-alia provides for constitution of a National Commission for Heritage Sites, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in February 2009 and the Report of the Standing Parliamentary Committee was submitted to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in November 2009. The comments/ suggestions/ recommendations made by the Standing Parliamentary Committee have been examined in consultation with various concerned Ministries and other stake-holders such as the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Archaeological Survey of India, the Indian National Trust of Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and individual experts from the civil society. A copy of the draft Bill was also sent to National Monuments Authority for their views which have since been received. After examination of the comments of the National Monuments Authority, a meeting will be held with ASI and NMA where the views of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, PMO and State Government and the Ministry's response thereon will be discussed. It is not possible to indicate any specific time-frame at this stage as to by when the National Commission for Heritage Sites will be constituted.

The establishment of National Commission for Heritage Site will help in better identification, protection, preservation and conservation of natural and cultural heritage sites.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India organizes various programmes/events to create cultural awareness/promote the rich cultural heritage of the country amongst the masses in general and students of schools and colleges, in particular. Cultural Awareness Programmes are organized every year in all parts of the country on occasions like Republic Day (26th January), World Heritage Day (18th April), International Museum Day (18th May), Van Mahotsav (1st to 7th July), Independence Day (15th August), Teacher's Day (5th September), World Tourism Day (27th September), Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October), Children's Day (14th November), Heritage Week (19th-25th November) besides exhibitions. Details of such programmes conducted during the last three years along with the amount spent on each programme, State and programme-wise are at Annexure-I.