

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4721
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
PRESERVATION OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to declare ancient cities of the country as heritage cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is considering various measures for conservation, preservation and integrated development of the area around the vast array of protected monuments spread throughout the length and breadth of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a)to(e) There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 either to declare or recognize any historic city as heritage city. However, under the provisions of section (4) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, individual monuments/sites 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. So far, 3678 monuments/sites have been declared as of national importance in the country. A State-wise abstract is placed at Annexure. These protected monuments /sites under Archaeological Survey of India are conserved, preserved, maintained and developed on need basis, as per archaeological norms, subject to availability of resources.