GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CULTURE LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5629 ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013 FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS AT TEMPLES Joshi Shri Mahesh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of works undertaken to provide basic facilities/ amenities to tourists visiting historical temples and monuments set up in various parts of the country during the last three years and the current year Temple/monument and State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated/released/ utilised for the said work during the said period, State/UT-wise and monument-wise;
- (c) whether any action/steps have been taken by the Government to provide adequate security to protect the tourists at such places;
- (d) if so, the details thereof State/UT and monument-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a)&(b) The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for protection, conservation and maintenance of 3678 monuments, archaeological sites and remains in the country. Providing basic facilities/amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) to the tourists visiting protected temples and monuments and sites are regular activities which the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes, as per needs and resources. Further, improvement and upgradation of these public amenities is a continuous process, where specific monuments are identified for the purpose every year. Basic public facilities are available at all World Heritage Sites and ASI's ticketed monuments, as also at majority of those protected monuments that are visited by a large numbers of tourists. The fund allocated/released/utilised on conservation, preservation and environmental development, including providing of tourist amenities on centrally protected monuments/ sites in the country, during the last three years, is at Annexure-I.

(c)to(e) Archaeological Survey of India has deployed regular watch & ward staff, and engaged the services of private security guards and State Police personnel for the safety and protection of centrally protected monuments and the tourists visiting the monuments/ sites. In addition, CISF personnel have also been deployed at Taj Mahal, Agra and Red Fort, Delhi. The details are at Annexure-II.