

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3342

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

PRESERVATION OF HERITAGES

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the heritage and history of Vadodara, Kachch, Amreli, Panchmahals and Rajkot are being lost due to rampant and unfettered development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) All the monuments/sites protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the State of Gujarat and elsewhere in the country are in good state of preservation. However, besides the monuments protected by ASI and the Department of Archaeology of the State Government, there are a large number of unprotected monuments. Some of these unprotected built heritage and antiquarian remains have disappeared due to hostile weather conditions and pressure of urbanisation. As no comprehensive survey/documentation of all monuments and heritage-sites was undertaken in the past, it is difficult to say as to how many of them have been lost. However, in order to prepare a comprehensive documentation and data base of all the protected/unprotected monuments and antiquities, the Central Government has launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), the Ministry of Urban Development in conjunction with the State Government of Gujarat has approved, inter-alia, to develop the heritage sites of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot cities.