

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4350  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009  
FRENCH FESTIVAL AT THE BACKDROP OF TAJ MAHAL  
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

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

- (a) whether a proposal is under consideration for holding French Festival against the backdrop of Taj Mahal at Agra near Mehtab Bagh monument;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal;
- (c) whether any studies have been conducted by the National Environment Engineering Institute (NEERI) for holding such festival;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which all the requisite conditions put forward would be cleared to enable the festival organised?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The French Embassy has proposed to hold 'French Festival in India' next year and its inaugural ceremony at Agra in the backdrop of Taj Mahal near Mehtab Bagh.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. At the behest of Archaeological Survey of India, National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has conducted Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study. The recommendations made by NEERI pertain to management of environment issues that may arise if the event is organized. Important ones are: venue should not be used for cooking of food, only electrical heating of food may be permitted, flow of the river should be maintained to prevent foul smell, precautions should be taken to prevent dust becoming airborne, use of diesel and noise making devices should be controlled, grid power should be ensured to prevent use of DG sets (though these may be kept for emergency back up), low pressure sodium vapour lamps should be used for illumination along with electronic insect repellants, drinking water and sanitary facilities be provided for guests, no effluent discharge be allowed into the river etc.

(e) The clearance of the proposal requires prior approval of the Supreme Court of India and as such no time limit can be specified