

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:899  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013  
ONLINE IMAGERY OF HERITAGE SITES  
Krishnaswamy Shri M.

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

(a) whether the Ministry and Google has signed a memorandum of understanding to create online imagery of the country's important heritage sites; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this direction, so far?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Madam. The Archaeological Survey of India and Google Ireland Limited a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 25th September, 2013. Under this MoU, use will be made of Google's photography technology inside and outside the site to create standard-resolution, 360-degree, panoramic images of the monuments/sites (the "Site View Images"), giving users the ability to experience a "virtual tour" of those selected parts of the monuments/Site("Site View"). Of the 101 monuments identified initially under the scheme, 22 monuments being covered in the first phase i.e. Oct. 2013 to Jan. 2014. The list of such 22 monuments is at Annexure.