

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1532

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

DEVELOPMENT OF MAJULI ISLAND AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to preserve the unique cultural heritage of Majuli in Assam, the largest river Island in South Asia; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to ensure enlistment of Majuli as a World Heritage Site at the next session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee?

Answer

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

(a) To protect and preserve the cultural resources of the Majuli Island including its Sattras, the Government of Assam has enacted "The Majuli Cultural Landscape Region Act, 2006". Under the Act, the Majuli Cultural Landscape Management Authority and an Executive Group have been notified by the State Government. It has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 185 lakhs for the improvement of the physical infrastructure of the Sattras.

Under its Majuli Development Project, the State Government has sanctioned a Cultural Centre for propagation of and training in Sattriya & Folk Dance, and has also given funds for the development of an ethnic village for the conservation and promotion of the island's tribal culture. Regular workshops and training programmes are organized under the aegis of the Cultural Centre.

Manuscripts lying in the Sattras have been surveyed and documented by the National Manuscript Mission.

(b) As a prerequisite to the enlistment of the site in the World Heritage List, Majuli Island is included in the Tentative List of UNESCO. The process for its re-nomination for inscription in the World Heritage List under the "cultural category" has been initiated. A consultant is being appointed for the preparation of its nomination dossier which would, inter-alia, bring out its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an advisory body of UNESCO for World Heritage inscriptions, would also be invited for site visit to evaluate and ascertain the OUV of Majuli Island.