

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4273
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
TAJ PROTECTION MISSION
Ramshankar Dr.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several projects relating to protection of Taj Mahal are pending with the Ministry for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the period of pendency; and
- (c) the steps taken for early clearance of these projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 13381 of 1984, ten projects were approved in the first phase for the environmental protection of the Taj Mahal. Several projects relating to the protection of Taj Mahal have been received thereafter from the Government of U.P from the year 2006 onwards. These projects pertained to afforestation for Taj Trapezium Zone, improvement of 21 Agra city roads, Agra Barrage, parking on western gate of Taj Mahal, improvement of sewerage system in Agra, improvement in electric supply, upgradation of solid waste management in Agra etc.

It is mentionable that the Planning Commission had desired that before initiating any new project, the post-project evaluation in the form of environmental audit of the previously executed projects be carried out to ascertain the environmental benefits and to see the changes that are necessary in the future proposals for environmental protection of the Taj Mahal. Accordingly, a post-evaluation study was awarded to the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. The NEERI has recently submitted its report to the Central Government.