

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4681
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
PANORAMIC IMAGERY OF MONUMENTS
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to launch 360-degree panoramic imagery of nationally important monuments in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of monuments which are covered under the scheme and the time by which the programme is likely to be covered throughout the country, State-wise;
- (c) the names of the Centrally maintained monuments charging tickets for visiting them and other facilities extended by them, State-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to charge for visiting all other such monuments in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Archaeological Survey of India and Google Ireland Limited a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland signed an Agreement on 25th September, 2013. Under this Agreement, use will be made of Google's photography technology inside and outside the monument to create standard-resolution, 360-degree, panoramic images (the "Site View Images"), giving users the ability to experience a "virtual tour" of those selected parts of the monuments/Site("Site View").
- (b) 100 monuments have been covered under the scheme throughout the country. The State-wise list is at Annexure-I. There is no proposal to cover all the monuments in the country.
- (c) There are 116 centrally protected ticketed monuments under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India. In addition to conservation, preservation, maintenance and development of environs in and around centrally protected monuments/sites, providing basic facilities/amenities (i.e. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) to the tourists visiting centrally protected monuments are the regular activities which the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes, as per need and resources. Further, improvement and up- gradation of these public amenities is a continuous process. Basic tourist facilities depending upon the need have been provided at the centrally protected ticketed monuments. The details of centrally protected ticketed monuments and tourist related amenities thereon are at Annexure-II.
- (d) There is no proposal as such to charge for visiting all centrally protected monuments in the country.