

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:647  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014  
ANCIENT PLACES OF WORSHIP  
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified all the ancient places of worship in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many ancient places of worship in various parts of the country are not under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the details of ancient worship places/temples identified in the country during the last three years, location-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) CULTURE & TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

- (a)&(b) There are 3680 monuments/sites declared as of national importance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958 within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Out of these, 955 monuments/sites have been identified as places of worship in the country. The details are at Annexure.
- (c) Yes, Madam. Many ancient places of worship in various parts of the country are not under the protection of ASI and no data is available with ASI about these places of worship.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) During the last three years, out of five monuments declared as of national importance, only Motijheel and Jama Mosque, Murshidabad, West Bengal have been identified as place of worship.