

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5505

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015

PROTECTION OF TAJ MAHAL

Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the main platform of the Taj Mahal has completely worn out and is now covered with wooden steps to prevent further erosion caused due to tourist inflow and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if so, whether the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) tasked with finding the carrying capacity of the Taj Mahal, has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has plans to fix the maximum number of tourists visiting the monument in a day and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the world heritage monument of Taj Mahal?

Answer

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

- (a) No Madam. No cover has been provided to main platform of the Taj Mahal. However, marble steps leading to main platform have been provided with wooden cover in same profile, as a preventive measure to guard against wearing out of original marble and safety of visitors against chances of slipping on smooth marble steps.
- (b)to(d) The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has not submitted its final report of the study. However, the draft report has been received and is under examination and review. Based on the final recommendation of NEERI report to determine carrying capacity of Taj Mahal, maximum no. of tourists visiting the monument will be worked out.
- (e) Conservation work of Taj Mahal is attended regularly within the available resources and it is in a good state of preservation.