

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4793
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
BEAUTIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS PLACES
Neta Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for beautification of religious/ worship places located in various parts of the country including tribal dominated areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT- wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide necessary basic facilities to the devotees coming to various places of worship in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There are 3680 monuments/sites declared as of national importance under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, including religious/worship places located in various parts of the country including tribal dominated areas of Maharashtra. The State-wise details of monuments/sites in the country are at Annexure. These monuments/sites are conserved, preserved and maintained by way of structural repairs on need basis, as per archaeological norms, subject to availability of resources.

(c) & (d) There are 285 centrally protected monuments/sites declared as of national importance in Maharashtra under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India. The basic necessary facilities like drinking water, toilets and special arrangements like barricading, Q-lines during local festivals are provided by the Archaeological Survey of India on regular basis at centrally protected monuments under worship in Maharashtra whenever necessary. In addition to conservation, preservation, maintenance and development of environs in and around centrally protected monuments, providing tourist related amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) at the centrally protected monuments/sites are the regular activities which the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes as per needs and availability of resources.