

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1327  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014  
INCLUSION OF CITES IN WORLD HERITAGE  
Singh Shri Rama Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for inclusion of various Indian cities in the UNESCO's World Heritage list;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the cities along with the criteria adopted by the UNESCO to include ancient sites/tourist places in World Heritage List;
- (c) whether the Government has identified or received any proposal from various State Governments to include places including Delhi and Vaishali in Bihar in the World Heritage list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposals along with the time by which these places are likely to be considered by the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO for inclusion in the list;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any survey to study the ancient historical importance of cities including Vaishali in Bihar; and
- (f) 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.

(b) The nomination dossiers of Delhi Imperial Capital Cities and The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai have been submitted to World Heritage Centre in January, 2014. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) ICOMOS mission visited in October, 2014 to evaluate the property of Delhi Imperial Capital Cities. The decision to declare Delhi as World Heritage City would be taken in the World Heritage Committee meeting 2015. Regarding the proposal on The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai decision has not yet been intimated by the World Heritage Centre. The criteria adopted by the UNESCO to include ancient sites/tourist places in World Heritage List are given in Annexure-I.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The Tentative list of UNESCO showing the proposals received from Governments are given in Annexure II. Department of Tourism, Government of NCT of Delhi has submitted the proposal of Delhi Imperial Capital Cities for its World Heritage status. There was an ICOMOS evaluation visit which happened in October, 2014. The issues raised by this evaluation mission have been addressed by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre. The decision regarding the nomination of Delhi Imperial Capital Cities as World Heritage site would be taken in the World Heritage Committee meeting of 2015. Vaishali is reflected in the proposal of Silk Road Sites in India which is already in the tentative list of UNESCO.

(e) & (f) The few surveys that ASI has conducted to study the ancient historical importance of cities are very project specific which aim to fulfill the objectiv of the specified project. As far as Vaishali is concerned the details are in Annexure-III.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1327 FOR 1.12.2014.

Criteria for consideration:

i. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

- iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- v. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- vii. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- viii. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- ix. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- x. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

#### ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1327 FOR 1.12.2014.

#### List of Tentative Sites of India

1. Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (03/07/1998)
2. Apatani Cultural Landscape (15/04/2014)
3. Archaeological remains of a Harappa Port-Town, Lothal (15/04/2014)
4. Bahá'í House of Worship at New Delhi (15/04/2014)
5. Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (26/05/2009)
6. Buddhist Monastery Complex, Alchi, Leh, known as AlchiChos-kor (03/07/1998)
7. Cellular Jail, Andaman Islands (15/04/2014)
8. Chettinad, Village Clusters of the Tamil Merchants (15/04/2014)
9. Chilika Lake (15/04/2014)
10. Churchgate - Extension to Mumbai CST (28/01/2009)
11. Delhi - A Heritage City (22/05/2012)
12. Desert National Park (26/05/2009)
13. Dholavira: A Harappan City (15/04/2014)
14. EkamraKshetra – The Temple City, Bhubaneswar (15/04/2014)
15. Excavated Remains at Nalanda (09/01/2009)
16. Group of Monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh (03/07/1998)
17. HemisGompa (01/07/1998)
18. Historic city of Ahmadabad (31/03/2011)
19. Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India (15/04/2014)
20. Kangchendzonga National Park (15/03/2006)
21. Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, Kerala (03/07/1998)
22. Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty (15/04/2014)

23. Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate (15/04/2014)
24. Monuments of Srirangapatna Island Town (15/04/2014)
25. Mountain Railways of India (Extension) (15/04/2014)
26. Mughal Gardens in Kashmir (13/12/2010)
27. Namdapha National Park (15/03/2006)
28. Narcondam Island (15/04/2014)
29. Neora Valley National Park (26/05/2009)
30. Padmanabhapuram Palace (15/04/2014)
31. River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam (02/03/2004)
32. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala (15/04/2014)
33. Santiniketan (20/01/2010)
34. Silk Road Sites in India (20/01/2010)
35. Sites along the Badshahi Marg - The Grand Trunk Road (15/04/2014)
36. Sites of Saytagrah, India's non-violent freedom movement (15/04/2014)
37. Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab (05/01/2004)
38. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam (15/04/2014)
39. Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal (03/07/1998)
40. The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways (15/04/2014)
41. The Neolithic Settlement of Burzahom (15/04/2014)
42. The QutbShahi Monuments of Hyderabad Golconda Fort, QutbShahi Tombs, Charminar (10/09/2010)
43. The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (22/05/2012)
44. Thembang Fortified Village (15/04/2014)
45. Urban and Architectural Work of Le Corbusier in Chandigarh (23/10/2006)
46. Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch (15/03/2006)

#### ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE PART (e & f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1327 FOR 1.12.2014.

The Surveys conducted in Vaishali are as follows:-

1. Patna Excavation Branch -III has conducted archaeological excavation at Kolhua district Muzafarpur which is a part of ancient Vaishali. The excavation unearthed various structures including monasteries, tank and votive stupas.
2. Patna Circle has conducted GPR survey at the site Vaishali.
3. Office of Director (Epigraphy), Nagpur has conducted an Epigraphical Survey for copying Arabic & Persian Inscriptions in the year 1985-86 thoroughly of Vaishali District, Bihar and has discovered One Arabic and Persian Inscription from Mamun Bhanje ki Dargah in Mahalla Jorwa, Hajipur, Vaishali. It is fixed into slab in the lamp-post at the Foot side of the grave. It records the construction of an excellent mosque in A H 1071=1660 A.D, August 27, which was built by Haji Chand, a servant of Nawwab Shaista Khan during the period of Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb. It is written by Muhammad Muqim son of Mir Sayyid Abdur-Rasul. Its style is Thulth & Nastaliq.

#### Supplementary Note

The Asokan pillar at Vaishali was first noticed by Mr. Law in 1784. Further, in 1784, J. Stephenson published a report on the remains around the Asokan pillar. A Cunningham conducted excavation near Asokan pillar and at Raja-Vishal-ka-Garh in 1861 and in 1881. T.Bloch and Dr. D.B.Spooner excavated Raja- Vishal-ka-Garh in 1904 and 1913-14 respectively. In course of these excavations fairly

a large nos. of seals and sealings were discovered depicting the name of Vaishali. During 1950 K.Deva conducted excavation at Raja-Vishal-ka-Garh which ascertained the date of its fortification. After wards Prof. A.S. Altekar (1958-62) conducted excavations at various sits of Vaishali under the auspicious of K.P.J.R.I. The most important discovery of this excavation was the finding of stupa built over the holy relics of Lord Buddha constructed by the Licchivis.

During 1976-78 excavation were conducted at Kolhua which proved that the Asokan pillar and stupa was constructed in same strata. Excavation were also carried out during 1989-93 and 2010-11 by Excavation Branch-III, Patna at Kolhua and during 2010-12 by Patna Circle, Patna at Raja-Vishal-ka-Garh.