

technology, funding pattern, interest rate, hydro-thermal mix, price and source of fuel, completed cost, the geographical area, load density, taxes and duties etc. These factors render comparability of the cost of power production of different countries difficult.

Thefts of Antiques

1327. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the theft of antiques are rising at an alarming rate in the country;

(b) if so, the number of thefts of antiques came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, year-wise and the number of antiques involved;

(c) the total number of stolen antiques recovered; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Government are aware of a few cases of theft of antiquities.

(b) Number of thefts and the antiques involved, brought to the notice of the Government, during the last three years as per available information are :-

Year	No. of thefts	Antiques involved
1995	4	7
1996	6	10
1997	3	8
1998	5	45

(c) 36 numbers of stolen antiques recovered.

(d) Measures have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in concert with the enforcing agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and the State Governments to check the theft of antiquities by intensifying checking at customs exit points, as well as by strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed Guards have also been deployed at the selected centrally protected monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India.

Dholavir as National Monument

1328. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a proposal to declare Dholavir in Gujarat and certain other monuments/ places/temples in Maharashtra as of the national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far;

(c) whether the proposal to declare these places as the national monuments has been cleared; and

(d) if so, the amount released by the Government for maintenance of these places so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Notification has been issued to invite objections to protect the Harappan site at Dholavira in Gujarat and proposals to protect ancient Water System called Thatte Nahar at Aurangabad and Trishunda Ganapati Temple at Pune in Maharashtra are being processed. It would not be possible to indicate a time frame for the completion of this process.

(d) For maintenance of the site at Dholavira in Gujarat Rs. 8.50 lakh has been released between 1994 to 1998. Maintenance of sites in Maharashtra would be taken up after their protection formalities are over, subject to over-all availability of resources.

[English]

Khajuraho Temples

1329. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khajuraho temples are in a crumbling state and require immediate attention;

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Government to save these temples from crumbling;

(c) the details of other archaeological sites in Madhya Pradesh which need immediate attention for maintenance and preservation; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No Sir, the centrally protected temples at Khajuraho are in a good state of preservation.