

**Regarding need for a legislative framework to recognize new categories of heritage and conservation of unprotected heritage sites in the country-Laid**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the need for restoring unprotected heritage structures that are in a neglected state. A NITI Aayog report highlighted that only 7% of mapped heritage structures are protected. The report estimates that India has over 5,00,000 potential heritage sites. In Rajasthan, around 43,000 heritage sites are officially listed, with the actual number being significantly higher. Many of these heritage sites remain without conservation oversight and are vulnerable to encroachment and disrepair. India has taken rapid strides in the conservation of key heritage sites through initiatives like the Adopt a Heritage scheme. However, India still does not have a distinct recognition of heritage categories such as heritage routes, cultural landscapes and industrial heritage. This leads to the situation wherein a significant number of heritage sites remain unprotected. Expanding the legislative framework to include these categories of heritage sites will not only bolster conservation of our heritage but also increase tourism potential of these sites. Therefore, I urge the Ministry of Culture to come up with a legislative framework for the recognition of new categories of heritage and conservation of unprotected heritage sites.