

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
HERITAGE STUDIES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

- (a) Whether there is a vast scope to promote heritage studies in the country;
- (b) If so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether any new programme is proposed to be drawn up for the purpose; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b) to (d): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a Scheme of Epoch Making Social Thinkers of India is in operation in Universities during the X Plan period, under which thirtythree Study Centres, viz. Gandhian (fourteen), Buddhist (two), Nehru (three), Ambedkar (four), Swami Vivekanand (four), Dr. Zakir Hussain (two), Rabindra Nath Tagore, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, have been set up. The UGC has also decided to conduct the memorial lectures in the memory of some eminent leaders every year.

According to the information furnished by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), the details of the ongoing projects of ICHR in this regard are as under:

- i) Archaeological Research Methodology
- ii) Greek Sources of Ancient India
- iii) Growth of cities during 2nd Urbanization
- iv) Archaeological Atlas of Indus Saraswati Civilization
- v) Archaeological Monuments & Traditions
- vi) Historical & Archaeological work of Parsis/Zoroastrians
- vii) Religious places of importance in Western India with special reference of Barot Caves
- viii) Salvaging & Conserving the damaged source material of History & Archaeology in Gujarat
- ix) Indian Petroglyphs: Scientific Study & Dating by International Commission.

The National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) has also given a full unit in the Social Science textbook for class X to this subject. In this unit, a detailed account of the cultural heritage of India has been given along with a message regarding why and how this cultural heritage has to be preserved.