

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1943
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
PRESERVATION OF VISALPUR FORT
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the historical Visalpur Fort near Dabhoi in Gujarat is in a dilapidated condition;
- (b) the number of ASI employees posted at Visalpur Fort for its preservation and upkeep;
- (c) the action proposed by the Government for proper preservation and maintenance of the Fort;
- (d) whether other historical sites in Gujarat are also not in good condition; and
- (e) if so, the action proposed by the Government for proper preservation of heritage of Gujarat?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a),(b) & (c) Four gates of the historical fort at Dabhoi, District Vadodara, Gujarat, which was rebuilt by Visaldev Vaghela (1244-61 AD), are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India. While the three gates, namely the Hira, Champaneri and Baroda Gates are in a fair state of preservation, the Nandodi Gate has been identified for repairs during 2003-04. Seven employees are posted there for daily watch-and-ward, upkeep and maintenance of the four gates.

(d) & (e) Preservation & conservation of centrally protected monuments, including those in Gujarat, is a continuous process. However, sixty-eight monuments in Gujarat suffered major or minor damages in the earthquake of January 2001. Thirty-five of them, including those with major damage, have already been repaired and conserved.