

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1308

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006

PHALGUNA SAKA CRACKS IN TAJ MAHAL

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

(a)whether the exterior of Taj Mahal got affected by pollution during winter months and cracks are found in the marble;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the measures taken or being taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to save the monument from pollution and cracks?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b)No adverse effect to the exterior of Taj Mahal or cracks in the marble had been noticed during the winter months due to pollution. While the quantity of gaseous pollutants is found to be well within the permissible limits, the value of suspended particulate matter has been found greater than the permissible limits during the winter months. However, this may not have any adverse effect on the monument. The isolated micro cracks in the marble veneering can be attributed to corrosion of iron clamps/dowels, inherent mineral impurities in the marble and weathering effects.

(c)The Archaeological Survey of India is continuously monitoring the quantity of pollutants in the ambient air of the Taj Mahal. Required conservation / preservation work are being undertaken regularly in addition to detailed scientific studies by expert organizations.