

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1386
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
PHALGUNA SAKA NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES COMMISSION
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Heritage Sites Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture proposes to constitute a National Heritage Sites Commission. Since the present legal and institutional framework is inadequate to address the documentation, inventorisation and conservation of built heritage in its broadest outlines. The Commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

The composition and mandate of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission is being worked out. It is expected that the commission would:

- tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.
- frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.
- can study or cause to study in important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.
- suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations, with specific terms of references for stocktaking and studying the present heritage laws and regulations, the practices followed in the leading European countries and suggest the ways of setting up a Heritage Site.

(c) The Commission could be set up after the enactment of an appropriate legislation, on which work is ongoing.