

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:400
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
RESTORATION OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that old and ancient manuscripts are lying in Museums and other places outside India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to restore the invaluable treasure of ancient India?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT.AMBIKA SONI)

(a),(b)& (c) The Government has established the National Mission for Manuscripts in 2003 to locate, catalogue, conserve and disseminate India's manuscripts. The Mission is making efforts to collect details and compile catalogues of Indian manuscripts in Germany, UK and USA. However a comprehensive survey of Indian manuscripts in museums and institutions outside the country has not been made. With a view to restore the invaluable manuscript heritage of India, the National Manuscript Mission is working towards creation of a digital resource of manuscripts on collections abroad, by making digital copies. The Mission is working towards expanding its international network to document and conserve the invaluable manuscript treasure of India.