

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1330
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS .
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of monuments/sites in the country which are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State-wise;
- (b) Whether the ASI is facing shortage of manpower for conservation of monuments as reported in the Times of India dated July 3, 2006;
- (c) If so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) Whether the ASI has decided to outsource the conservation of monuments;
- (e) If so, the details thereof;
- (f) Whether the private agencies have been invited in this regard; and
- (g) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3667 monuments/ sites of National Importance in the country. A State-wise list is at Annexure-I

(b) to (c) The existing strength of 502 personnel under various conservation cadres is inadequate considering the volume of conservation works in the protected monuments handled by 24 circles of the Archaeological Survey of India. In addition to implementing its annual programmes, ASI has to honour the requests from state governments to carry out conservation works in the state protected monuments as deposit works and also take up such works abroad as part of the bilateral agreements.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. Considering the shortage of manpower in the Conservation Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India and keeping in view of the conservation needs of the protected monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to outsource conservation works in selected monuments. The conservation work of Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi has been outsourced by inviting financial bids from short-listed parties. After due process, the work was entrusted to M/s. Caltech India, Calcutta. The Archaeological Survey of India also proposes to outsource conservation works in respect of three colonial buildings within the Red Fort. The process of selecting a suitable agency is on.

Whenever conservation works would be outsourced, the work would have to be executed as per archaeological norms under the overall supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India.