

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3438

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006

NOMINATION OF MAJULI ISLAND FOR INCLUSION IN WORLD HERITAGE LIST .

Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the India's nomination for inclusion of Majuli Island in Assam in the World Heritage List in the year 2006 has been cleared by the World Heritage Committee;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) If not, the major deficiencies pointed out in the nomination;
- (d) Whether the Government has analyzed the major deficiencies which prevented the nomination of Majuli Island to get through in the first attempt;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) The concrete steps taken or being taken by the Government for nomination of Majuli Island in the World Heritage List?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (f) Archaeological Survey of India submitted a nomination dossier on Majuli Island in Jorhat district of Assam for consideration of the World Heritage Committee for its inscription on the World Heritage List in its 30th session held at Vilnius, Lithuania between 8 – 16th July 2006. The Committee after examining the proposal has referred the proposal back with the directions to submit following additional information viz;

(a) to assemble more information on the Sattras remaining on the island and the way they have influenced and continue to influence landscape patterns and the overall interaction between people and nature in Majuli and further a field;

(b) create an inventory of architecture and spatial patterns in the landscape associated with the Sattras and their movable heritage;

(c) put in place legal protection;

(d) amplify the Management Plan to take account of specific nature of Sattras landscapes and buildings, the interrelationship between people and nature, the potential for traditional farming practices to sustain biodiversity, the need to codify traditional knowledge, the conservation and development of traditional architecture, a cultural tourism strategy and approaches to sustainable development;

(e) undertake an appraisal of the overall river basin in which Majuli lies, and the potential impact of climate change, in order to ascertain the chances of the island surviving in the medium term;

(f) develop and implement a Risk Preparedness Strategy;

(g) carefully consider the impact of the proposed bridges on the special characteristics of the Majuli cultural landscape;

(h) to produce an inventory of flora and fauna of the site with particular emphasis on threatened and endangered species that may be protected as result of local management practices.

The matter has been discussed with senior official of Govt. of Assam on 20.7.2006 and it is decided to form a core group comprising of senior officials of Govt. of Assam, experts from universities and other agencies and conservation architects to collect the information as sought by the World Heritage Committee and to resubmit the nomination dossier along with the additional information to the World Heritage Committee for its consideration.