

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
HERITAGE CITIES
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to declare more ancient cities in the country as heritage cites;
- (b) if so, details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of historical monuments?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THRE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a)to(c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 FOR 30.11.2006

(a)&(b) The Central Government does not declare cities as heritage cities as there is no such provision in the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

(c) Government has enacted the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 to provide for preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites. Under Section 4 of this Act, ancient and historical monuments are declared as of national importance and so far 3667 monuments and sites in the country have been declared as of national importance.

The conservation, preservation, structural repairs and environmental development of the protected historical monuments are undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in accordance with the archaeological norms. Government allocates budgetary provisions for the above purpose and such funds are augmented through Public Private Partnership under the National Culture Fund. For physical protection of the monuments, the ASI has deployed watch and ward staff and private security guards, besides CISF in respect of the Taj Mahal and Red Fort.