

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1288
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
BELUR AND HALEBID TEMPLES, KARNATAKA
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a team from UNESCO visited Belur and Halebid temples in Hassan District, Karnataka to include the two temples in the heritage list;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether the team from UNESCO held an interaction with the Commissioner of Tourism;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) to (b) A team from UNESCO had visited Belur and Halebid temples, in Hassan district, Karnataka in order to promote cultural tourism and not for the purpose of including these temples in the World heritage list.
- (c) to (e) The UNESCO team interacted with the Commissioner of Tourism, Government of Karnataka to provide technical support to the State Tourism and Culture Ministry to develop Karnataka Heritage Itinerary which could eventually form part of the Heritage Passport programme, which was launched in September 2006 by UNESCO New Delhi office in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of the Government of India. The final report of UNESCO team is awaited.