

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:655

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007

TAJ MAHAL AMONGST THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Singh Shri Akshay Pratap

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government anticipate heavy rush of tourists, both domestic and international, to visit Taj Mahal in view of the fact that Taj has been declared recently as one of the seven wonders of the world; and

(b) if so, the details of extra arrangements made?

Answer

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

(a) The Taj Mahal is already the most visited centrally protected monument. In the year 2006-07, 26,03,571 tourists (Indian: 20,71,243 and Foreigner: 5,32,328) visited Taj Mahal. Some increase in these numbers is anticipated as a result of the recent declaration of the Taj Mahal as one of the seven wonders of the world.

(b) In addition to the regular watch and ward, the security and safety of the Taj Mahal is assigned to the Central Industrial Security Force. Basic tourist amenities like drinking water, toilets, wheel chairs for physically challenged persons, lockers etc. have been provided.