

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1708

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007

MANUSCRIPTS OF RIG VEDA IN HERITAGE LIST OF UNESCO

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has included the 30 manuscripts of Rig Veda belonging to a period from 1800 to 1900 B.C. in its heritage list; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b): The National Mission for Manuscripts, under Ministry of Culture, had submitted the nomination of the Rig Veda Manuscripts from Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, for inclusion in the UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Register and 30 of these manuscripts have been included in the Register, 2007. The oldest of these 30 manuscripts dates back to 1464 AD. The programme of the Memory of the World has been started by UNESCO to honour significant landmarks in the documentary heritage and record them in this Register as world's inheritance.