

Clearance of tunnel near Humayun Tomb

1508. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India cleared the road at National Highway-24 with Lodhi Road through a tunnel near the Humayun Tomb;

(b) whether traffic movement around heritage sites have been restricted in other countries; and

(c) if so, what was the main reason for giving permission for the tunnel near the heritage building?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India had issued a conditional No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the proposal of the Link Road connecting NH-24 bypass to Lodhi Road through a tunnel passing at a distance of 340 metres from the Humayun's Tomb. As the response of the Delhi Administration to the conditionalities has not been received, the NOC has been suspended

(b) No such data is available with the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) The NOC for the construction of proposed Link Road was given subject to specific conditions in view of the protected monuments in the vicinity of the proposed tunnel road.

Collection of manuscripts under National Manuscripts Mission

1509. SHRI MAHMOODA MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of manuscripts that have been collected under the National Manuscripts Mission;

(b) in what manner such manuscripts have been categorized; and

(c) the places where these manuscripts are being stored?

[13 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The National Manuscripts Mission persuades people to donate and preserve their manuscripts in Museums, Universities, Archives and reputed institutions having manuscripts libraries in their concerned areas. After establishment of the Mission in 2003, more than 20,000 manuscripts have been acquired by the institutions during survey and documentation. Besides this, the Mission has accepted about 400 manuscripts donated by individuals.

(b) The Mission is in the process of preparing a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in its possession title-wise, author-wise, subject-wise, script-wise, language-wise, place-wise and institution-wise.

(c) The manuscripts, in the possession of the National Manuscripts Mission, are preserved in the Mission's Headquarter in New Delhi.

Ardha Kumbh fair

†1510. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effective attempts were made to convey good wishes of Government to crores of devotees who come to the world famous Ardha Kumbh fair;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not conveying good wishes on this festival as are done on other festivals; and

(d) the names of the Ministries contributed to it?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The involvement of the Ministry of Culture was limited to organizing special cultural programmes through North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, during the Ardha Kumbh fair held at Allahabad in January, 2007.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi