

(a) whether it is a fact that only 3,675 monuments are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India leaving more than 7 lakh unprotected heritage structure out in the cold;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ASI has commendable technical expertise to take care of protected monuments but it is poorly equipped to address the complexity of conservation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect non-designated archaeological sites and other heritage structures in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There are 3675 monuments/sites declared as of national importance under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India. It is not possible to give details of unprotected monuments/sites since no systematic survey of the country, with this intention, has been done. The Government has however, set up a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities to create a national database for all the monuments/sites irrespective of whether these are protected or otherwise.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The conservation, preservation and maintenance, including complex conservation works at protected monuments are undertaken by qualified and highly experienced technical officers of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), efficiently, despite manpower constraints.

(d) The monuments and sites which are not considered for declaration as of national importance in accordance with the provision of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are required to be protected and conserved by the State Governments or the local bodies.

Water logging in Konark Temple

2753. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of recent water logging in the premises of Konark temple;

(b) if so, whether the reasons for the same have been enquired into and the accountability of the ASI looked into; and

(c) the remedial measures taken and proposed to be taken to ensure that the world famous heritage is saved for the future generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to occasional heavy rains, the storm water gets temporarily accumulated in the temple complex, owing to its location at lower level than the surrounding area, which is immediately pumped out making the temple accessible to the visitors.

(c) As a preventive conservation measure, in addition to existing soak pit on the western side of Konark Temple, from where the rain water is pumped out, two more soak pits have been provided in the Temple Complex. Catch water drains have been dug on northern and western side. Low height earthen bunds have been created on northern and western side to prevent the flow of rain water towards the Temple. Essential repair and maintenance work to the Temple is attended regularly and it is a good state of preservation.

Extension for Secretary of SNA

2754. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 598 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 2010 and state:

(a) whether the examination for the validity of extra-ordinary extension decision of Executive Board dated 28th May, 2007 has been completed after three years;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in the decision;

(c) whether the re-appointment of the same person, who exhausted his three extensions is admissible under the rules for another 5 years without re-advertising the post and following the laid down procedure; and

(d) the exceptional qualifications of the incumbent in the field of performing arts for which he is being considered indispensable?