

Heritage site of Holkar Fort

4797. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Heritage site—Holkar Fort—at Maheshwar (Khargone) was utilized by Chairman, Madhya Pradesh State Tourism for New Year festivities (January 1st to 3rd) in an unbecoming manner in the company of foreigners;

(b) if so, the persons responsible for this sacrilege;

(c) the action being taken against the persons involved and those responsible for security/upkeep of the Fort; and

(d) what are the general instructions for avoiding this kind of sacrileges of Indian Heritage and the persons responsible to ensure that these are strictly followed?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI.S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) As informed by the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation, its Chairman, Dr. Nitish Bhardwaj was a personal guest of Shri Richard Holkar at the Fort Guest House in Maheshwar from January 1st to 3rd 2005.

The Holkar Fort is not a protected monument either by the Archaeological Survey of India or the State Archaeology Department.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Provisions exist under section 16 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rule 8 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rule 1959 prohibiting the misuse of only centrally protected monuments.

Maintenance of historical places in Rajasthan

†4798. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is a leading State in respect of historical heritage and archaeological sites;

(b) whether due to these factors the number of tourists has been increasing continuously;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether these archaeological sites have been continuously decaying due to lack of proper maintenance;

(d) whether any scheme for the maintenance of these sites is under Government's consideration;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated wherein cooperation of institutions in maintenance work, through the method of adoption, would be sought for bringing them in their original forms; and

(f) whether Government would consider a scheme of maintenance and operation on the pattern of M.O.T. (Maintenance, Operation, Transfer)?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Rajasthan is one of the important states in respect of historical heritage and archaeological sites.

(b) The tourist inflow to Rajasthan is on the increase due to various factors which include the presence of several historical heritage and archaeological sites.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India is regularly maintaining and conserving all centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites in Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 279.97 lakhs has been incurred during 2004-05.

(e) The National Culture Fund provides for public-private partnership in the preservation of heritage. The National Culture Fund accepts contribution from public and private sources for maintenance, and preservation of monuments, protected or otherwise.

(f) There is no such scheme presently under the consideration of the Government.

Monuments in Bihar

4799. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the archaeological monuments with ASI in Bihar;

(b) whether such monuments are being claimed as Wakf by the State Wakf Board;

(c) if so, Government's stand in the matter; and