

is reviewed by a Coordination Committee of the Ministries of Tourism and Culture.

(d) No, Sir. .

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Conservation of monuments is continuous process. Archaeological Survey of India undertakes regular maintenance and special repairs, wherever necessary, in respect of all protected monuments. The ASI engages watch and ward staff for physical protection, and their efforts are supplemented by private security guards and CISF personnel, in respect of selected monuments.

One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of 1857

2665. DR. CHANDAN MITRA:

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has earmarked a sum of Rs. 100 crore for celebrating the 150th anniversary of the events of 1857, also known as the first war of Indian Independence;

(b) whether sponsorship of an official history of the uprising of 1857, part of the proposed celebrations;

(c) if so, the historian who have been commissioned to write this volume (s);

(d) the basis on which historians have identified for the project, or if they are yet to be selected on what criteria they shall be chosen for this project; and

(e) whether both the Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to join in these celebrations and if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) No funds have so far been earmarked for the celebrations. However, financial constraints will not be allowed to affect the scale or scope of Celebrations. The Government has constituted Group of Ministers with the following members to chalk out the programmes to be taken up as part of these celebrations:

[22 August, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development

Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture and

Shri Sunil Dutt, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (Since deceased)

Observation of UNESCO on World Heritage Sites

2666. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any delegation of UNESCO has recently visited to examine the three World Heritage Sites in Agra-Taj, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, Hampi in Karnataka and Bodhgaya in Bihar;

(b) if so, their observations on these World Heritage Sites and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have requested to add more sites/places in the list of World Heritage Sites; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The UNESCO/ICOMOS Missions recently visited the Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (Bihar) in April, 2005 and Hampi (Karnataka) in August, 2005 in connection with finalization of Site Management Plans.

In case of Bodhgaya, the Mission has recommended that the work on Site Management Plan may be suspended until such time all necessary conditions for implementation of the same are in place; namely appropriate legal framework, controls in the buffer zone, management mechanism, etc. The Mission also recommended to explore the possibility of a long term extension of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex inscription to include the cultural landscape identified with Lord Buddha and other properties associated with the life of Buddha in India like, for example, Sarnath. Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhgaya is not a centrally protected monument. It is managed and