

(a) whether it is a fact that many ancient temples in Kashmir Valley are in very bad condition;

(b) if so, whether Government is preparing any plan for protecting them; and

(c) if so, the targets fixed in this regard for near future?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) No Sir. The protected ancient temples in Kashmir Valley are in reasonably to satisfactory state of preservation. Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process and necessary repair work on these temples is attended regularly depending upon the need of the repairs at particular site and availability of the resources.

#### Reference from CVC

2351. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CVC of the Ministry has received reference from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) *vide* letter No. OII/MCD/043/145090 dated 16 September, 2011 alongwith the complaint of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament on very serious issues;

(b) whether CVC has concluded his action on each issue elaborated in the said complaint; and

(c) if so, upto which specific date, complete information alongwith the action taken report will be furnished to CVC?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaint was referred to Archaeological Survey of India for comments on the same.

(c) The updated information has been sought from field office of ASI and the same will be furnished to CVC at the earliest.

#### Protection to Balaji Ghat of Varanasi from extinction

†2352. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that World Monuments Fund (WMF) has included Balaji Ghat of Varanasi in the list of 60 sites of cultural heritage in the world which are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government itself is taking any steps to protect and save this Ghat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Balaji Ghat of Varanasi is a private property and not a protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Hence, there is no proposal of ASI to take up the conservation work here.

**Preservation of site of Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati**

2353. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps has the Ministry taken for preservation of the archaeological sites of Assam, especially the site of the Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati;

(b) whether materials of such importance are preserved in the museum of Assam; and

(c) whether the Ministry has provided grant to State museum and propose to open new museums in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The site of the Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati is not protected site/monument neither by Archaeological Survey of India nor by State Archaeology Department Assam.

(b) A victory pillar stone inscription of the Battle of Saraighat is now preserved in the Assam State museum, Guwahati.

(c) The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has sanctioned Rs 3.00 Crore (Rupees three crore) only as one time financial assistance to the Assam State Museum Management Society during 2007-08 for the "Development of Infrastructure of the Assam State Museum".

**Proposals for developmental works of archaeological sites in MP**

†2354. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise names of archaeology survey, archives and museums for which proposal for various works has been received by the Ministry from Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) the current status of such proposals;

(c) whether any time-limit has been set for disposal of such proposals;

(d) whether too much time taken in sanctioning such proposals obstructs the developmental works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.