

(a) whether the places of historical/cultural/archaeological importance are declared protected under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for monitoring the physical status of such sites in the country; and

(d) the funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred for protection of each of such sites during the Eleventh Five Year Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details of protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in various States, are given in the statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No.3131 Part (b)]

(c) The protected monuments are regularly inspected by the officers and staff of respective Circle Offices of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in different States. These are also visited by officers from Head Quarter office, as and when necessity arises.

(d) The details of expenditure incurred for conservation of monuments, by the ASI, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure incurred/allocation (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	2007-08	12886.19
2.	2008-09	13498.60
3.	2009-10	15300.43
4.	2010-11	15649.50
5.	2011-12	13305.00
		(Allocation)

**Construction of Tunnel at Zozila Pass**

3138. SHRI PRAMOD KUREEL:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Leh region of Jammu and Kashmir remains cut off for almost half of the year by road mainly due to closure of Zozila Pass causing great inconvenience to the people of the area and thus alienates them from the country;

(b) whether any survey has been done for creating a tunnel at Zozila to connect the region for most part of the year;

(c) if so, when it was done and what is the status of the same;

(d) whether there is any plan of the Ministry to start the tunnel work; and

(e) if so, by when it is going to start and what is the time-frame for the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The contract for feasibility study was awarded to M/s iBilt Technology, on 29.4.2009. Survey is under progress for the feasibility of tunnel at the Zozila Pass and other locations along this axis to Leh and is in advanced stage. It is likely to be completed by March 2012.

(d) and (e) Decision about construction of tunnel would depend on the outcome of the feasibility study.

#### **new inventions by DRDO**

†3139. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new inventions made by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on defence equipments and security of defence personnel during the past three years and the time by when benefits thereof would be available to our defence personnel; and

(b) whether the State police are getting the benefits of any of new techniques developed by DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is primarily engaged in design and development of strategic, complex and security sensitive systems for our Defence Forces. Over the three years, DRDO has developed a