

- (a) whether Pakistan has gone back on its assurance that it would grant India Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status;
- (b) whether any official communication has been received from Pakistan;
- (c) whether Government propose to withdraw MFN status it conferred on Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the Press Release of Pakistan Government dated 2nd November, 2011, it is understood that [the (Pakistan) Cabinet gave Ministry of Commerce the mandate to take the process of normalization forward, which would culminate in the observance of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle in its true spirit].

This issue was discussed during the 6th round of talks on commercial and economic co-operation between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan. The Agreed minutes of these talks, reflect Pakistan's position for observance of MFN as follows:—

“The move to full normalization of trade relations shall be sequenced. In the first stage, Pakistan will transition from the current Positive List approach to a Negative List. The consultation process on devising this Negative List is almost complete. A small Negative List shall be finalized and ratified by February, 2012. Thereafter, all items other than those on the Negative List shall be freely exportable from India to Pakistan. In the second stage, the Negative List shall be phased out. The timing for this phasing out will be announced in February, 2012 at the time the List is notified and it is expected that the phasing out will be completed before the end of 2012.”

With the entire phasing out of the Negative List, the transition process for full grant of MFN status by Pakistan to India shall be completed.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

World Heritage City status to Delhi

180. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has officially submitted the tentative nomination dossier prepared by the heritage body, India National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage for the 'World Heritage City' to UNESCO in favour of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a huge step for Delhi which will mark Delhi's historical status on par with cities like Athens and Rome; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Weakening of foundation of Taj Mahal

†181. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that according to researchers, due to polluted water of Yamuna river and deforestation, foundation of Taj Mahal in Agra has got weakened and it may collapse in next few years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that last year cracks had been seen in dome and four minarets of Taj Mahal;

(c) whether repair work of dome and minarets have been completed; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to protect Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No such threat is there to the Taj Mahal. The studies got conducted by Archaeological Survey of India through various agencies have revealed that monument is quite stable in plan and elevation. A green belt has also been developed at the Taj Mahal by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) No, Sir. No such cracks have been developed.

(c) and (d) The conservation work at the Taj Mahal is attended to, continuously depending upon the need of repairs and availability of resources. The monument is regularly monitored by conducting essential studies.

Promotion of culture in Jharkhand

182. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government or any of its autonomous organizations have undertaken any cultural activity/programme for promotion and development of culture in the State of Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.