

events like music, dance, etc, (iii) Dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture and (iv) Training in Traditional and Folk Art- in the States falling under the Himalayan Region *i.e.* Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The Colleges and Universities are also eligible to apply. Besides, North Zone Culture Centre (NZCC), Patiala; North Central Zone Culture Centre (NCZCC), Allahabad and North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur, autonomous bodies under Ministry of Culture, also implement various schemes for promotion, preservation and revival of Folk & Tribal Art forms of the Himalayan Region including Uttarakhand, Ladakh and Sikkim.

(b) Yes, Sir. Various Indus Valley Civilisation sites have been excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India and are well preserved and maintained.

Tourist infrastructure facilities at heritage sites and monuments

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards inconveniences to tourists during visits to monuments in Maharashtra, such as lack of infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and to develop tourist infrastructure facilities at many heritage sites and monuments;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested to the Ministry for proper restoration and infrastructure development of monument sites; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for protection, conservation and maintenance of 3679 monuments, archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance in the country including 285 monuments/sites in Maharashtra. Providing basic facilities/amenities (*e.g.* drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) to the tourists visiting centrally protected monuments/sites are regular activities which the Archaeological Survey of India undertakes, as per needs and resources. Further improvement and upgradation of these public amenities is a continuous process. Basic public facilities are available at all World Heritage Sites and ASI's ticketed monuments.

(c) and (d) There is no such request that has been made for archaeological sites in Maharashtra as such. However, Archaeological Survey of India proposes to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra to provide basic tourist infrastructure at centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra.