

Restoration and amenities at heritage sites

†2273. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of heritage sites in the country is very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking for restoration of heritage sites and providing amenities therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Conservation work of protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is attended regularly within the available resources and depending upon the requirements of different sites and they are in a good state of preservation. Public amenities such as toilet blocks, drinking water facility, signage etc. have been provided at all important monuments.

Digitizing and microfilming of historical records of princely states

2274. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for digitizing and microfilming work of valuable historical records of princely states to preserve old and fragile documents, has been initiated;

(b) if so, the details thereof so far as the State of Rajasthan is concerned;

(c) whether the budgetary estimate for the project has been approved; and

(d) if so, the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Rajasthan State Archives has intimated that 50 lakh pages of records of princely states have been digitized by them.

(c) and (d) The Rajasthan State Archives has intimated that during Twelfth Finance Commission the Department received ₹ 1.11 crore in 2007-08 and ₹ 1.23 crore in 2008-09 for digitizing and microfilming records of princely states. The Rajasthan State Archives has also informed that a project for ₹ 75 lakh has been approved by the National Archives of India in 2013-14 for digitization and microfilming of records in their Jaipur, Ajmer and Jodhpur offices.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.