

New conservation methods for ancient monuments

1048. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is adopting very old and obsolete methods in preservation of ancient monuments across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with Government to formulate and introduce new conservation methods based on modern techniques; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Conservation work of ancient monuments is a specialized work for which traditional materials, methods and techniques are always preferable to maintain originality and authenticity of the monuments. However, for stability of the monuments, if use of modern techniques is required, the same are also applied. The training courses are organized regularly to keep abreast the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) professionals about new developments in Conservation Science. At present no such proposal of new conservation methods is pending.

Bringing Kohinoor diamond in the country

1049. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry for bringing back the Kohinoor diamond to India from the United Kingdom;

(b) the details of the steps taken/being taken for above; and

(c) whether the Ministry made a statement that Kohinoor diamond was a gift to Britain and it was not taken away forcefully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of External Affairs is exploring ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution to this issue with the UK Government.

(c) No, Sir. It was a mis-interpretation.