

(b) whether there is any plan to remove the squatters and make-shift shopkeepers and rehabilitate them elsewhere to beautify this tourist destination as per the proposal submitted by Mumbai Chapter of INTACH; and

(c) if so, how much time-frame Government has estimated to implement the proposal of INTACH?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for Comprehensive Conservation, Management and Sustainable Development Plan was prepared by the INTACH in consultation with the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, Statutory Planning Committee for Elephanta, the Archaeological Survey of India and UNESCO in 2002. The proposal was to be implemented by INTACH through Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) but was objected by the residents and local authorities.

#### **Shortage of funds for conservation and maintenance of monuments**

1634. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of funds for the conservation and maintenance of protected monuments in the country so much so that even the ongoing works at Taj Mahal have been suspended;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what contingency plan Government has to make funds available for continuance of ongoing works all across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no such shortage of funds for conservation of protected monuments including Taj Mahal. The requisite funds have been provided wherever necessary and essential conservation works have been taken up accordingly.

#### **Setting up of literacy clubs**

†1635. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce any scheme for promoting the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.