

(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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

setting up of literary clubs like Press Clubs for literary figures in small towns along with metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) the details of such clubs or institutions already in existence, if any; and

(c) the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Shortage of staff in ASI

1636. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India is facing acute shortage of staff, if not, the total sanctioned and present strength of the ASI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of this shortage of staff, the ASI is unable to meet the request of the State Governments for conducting the survey of the buildings/structures of national importance carrying heritage value; and

(c) by when does the Ministry propose to get over the shortage problems so that the buildings of national importance are surveyed, protected and preserved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Archaeological Survey of India has been conducting the survey of buildings/structures of national importance carrying heritage value from time to time with its available staff.

(c) Appropriate measures are taken to fill up vacancies arising in different cadres of ASI from time to time by holding timely DPC and constantly taking up with UPSC and SSC respectively. However, the survey or protection and preservation of buildings of national importance are not neglected for want of adequate manpower.