

**Dilapidated condition of monuments/heritage sites**

†\*98. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several monuments/heritage sites in the country are in dilapidated condition;

(b) the State-wise list of the sites that have been indentified where monuments are in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to renovate the historical monuments especially in Bihar, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Conservation work of protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is executed regularly and due to continuous care and maintenance they are not in dilapidated condition.

(c) Comprehensive conservation programme for protected monument in the country, including Bihar, is drawn every year as per the budgetary allocations and works are executed following the archaeological norms and principles. Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process, with emphasis on maintaining their originality and integrity, which is being followed by the ASI.

**Protection of Taj Mahal from environmental hazards**

\*99. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any action plan to protect the Taj Mahal from environmental hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of trees have been cut in order to construct a multi-level car parking in the ecologically sensitive area around the Taj Mahal, and

(d) if so, what is Government's action plan to restore the lost vegetation, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is making continuous efforts for and conservation and care of Taj Mahal. The

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.