

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1946
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

INCLUSION OF BISHNUPUR TEMPLES AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

1946. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to facilitate the inclusion of the temples at Bishnupur on the UNESCO World Heritage list, given that it has been on the tentative list since July 3, 1998;
- (b) the specific measures or actions planned to address any gaps or requirements that might be preventing the temples at Bishnupur from being recognized as a World Heritage Site; and
- (c) the timeline or expected schedule for advancing the nomination of the temples at Bishnupur to the UNESCO World Heritage list?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The augmentation of the World Heritage List is a continuous process. India has, as of now, 43 properties (35 Cultural, 7 Natural and 1 mixed) on the World Heritage List.
- (c) According to UNESCO's Operational Guidelines 2023, only one property—either cultural, natural, or mixed—can be proposed for inclusion in the World Heritage List each year. For the year 2024, the 'Maratha Military Landscape of India' has been submitted for the inscription process for 2024-25. There are 56 properties in the World Heritage Tentative List, including the Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal. Nomination on the UNESCO World Heritage List is considered based on the operational Guidelines of UNESCO.
