

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 511  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.2.2017

**PROJECT MAUSAM**

**511. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:**

**Will the Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and detailed outline of Project Mausam with its expected time of commencement and completion along with the cost of the project;
- (b) the details of the status of implementation of Project Mausam;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on the project during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the goals that the Government seeks to achieve by the said project;

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies. This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean – extending from East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Subcontinent and Sri Lanka to the Southeast Asian archipelago. It also aims to promote research on themes related to the study of Maritime Routes through international scientific seminars and meetings and by adopting a multidisciplinary approach. The project encourages the production of specialized works, as well as publications for the general public with an attempt at promoting a broader understanding of the concept of a common heritage and multiple identities. Project Mausam commenced in April 2015 and its completion is scheduled in March, 2017. Total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 150, 244, 502/-.

- (b) The Government has identified 39 countries (list given in Annexure I) to bring on board for trans-national nomination for World Heritage status. Indian missions in these countries have been requested to identify appropriate authority/expert/resource person for dialogue. Seminars and academic activities have been taken by IGNCA.
- (c) There was no specific allocation of funds for Project Mausam during financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16. SFC approved a fund allocation of Rs. 78,225,975/-. An amount of appx. Rs. 10,00,000/- was incurred during 2014-15, Rs. 6,96,000/- during 2015-16 and Rs. 4,76,000/- during 2016-17 on Project Mausam.
- (d) The main objective of the Project Mausam is to prepare a dossier for trans-national nomination for World Heritage listing. It also goals to revive lost linkages with nations along Indian Ocean, creation of database of sites and research on maritime routes and to re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean World, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values.

## ANNEXURE-I

### ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 511 FOR 6.2.2017.

List of 39 Indian Ocean countries identified under Project Mausam:

1	Bahrain
2	Bangladesh
3	Cambodia
4	China
5	Comoros
6	Egypt
7	Eritrea
8	Reunion, French Department
9	Indonesia
10	Iraq
11	Iran (Islamic Republic)
12	Jordan
13	Kuwait
14	Kenya
15	Lebanon
16	Madagascar
17	Malaysia
18	Maldives
19	Mauritius
20	Mozambique
21	Myanmar
22	Oman
23	Pakistan
24	Philippines
25	Qatar
26	Singapore
27	Sri Lanka
28	Saudi Arabia
29	Seychelles
30	Somalia
31	South Africa
32	Sudan
33	Syrian Arab Republic
34	United Republic of Tanzania
35	Thailand
36	Turkey
37	United Arab Emirates
38	Viet Nam
39	Yemen