

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 5587 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018**

WITHDRAWAL OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HERITAGE SITES BILL, 2009

5587. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has withdrawn the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the report of the Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee, including dissenting notes of its members on the amendments to the Antiquities Act, 1972 are available in public domain and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the current status of the Draft Antiquities and Art Treasures Regulation, Export and Import Bill, 2017?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & MINISTER OF STATE FOR
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR.MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam, the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 was withdrawn by the Government from the Rajya Sabha on 31.07.2015.

The National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26.02.2009, which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Transport, Tourism and Culture. Accordingly, consultations were held with various stakeholders including the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), National Monuments Authority (NMA) as well as Ministries of Urban Development, Environment, Forest & Climate Change (the then Environment & Forests) etc. Based on the consultations, a view emerged that most of the provisions of the Bill may be covered in the further amendment of the AMASR Act, 1958 being pursued by the ASI. Accordingly, the Government decided not to constitute a National Heritage Sites Commission as envisaged in the said Bill.

(c) The report of Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee including the dissenting note of its member on the amendment of the Antiquities Act, 1972 is not in public domain. The report submitted by the said Committee was not accepted and it was decided to draft a new Bill in place of existing Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

(d) The Antiquities and Art Treasures, Regulation, Export and Import Bill. 2017 has been drafted. The comments from the stakeholders have been obtained and are being scrutinized in the Ministry of Culture.