

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2458  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.07.2019**

**CONSERVATION OF MURAL PAINTINGS**

**2458: SHRI DEVUSINH JESINGBHAI CHAUHAN :**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the various measures and proposals of the Government for conservation of Mural Paintings and ancient folk paintings on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details there of, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to identify centres of ancient culture and accord special tourism status to these centres; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM**

**(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**ANSWER**

- (a) and (b): Archeological Survey of India (ASI), regularly attends to the conservation work of Mural Paintings and ancient folk paintings in the protected monuments of the ASI, due to which they are in a good state of preservation.

Also, IGNCA, an autonomous organisation under this Ministry is actively involved in the Government's endeavor for conservation of Mural Paintings and ancient folk paintings which are on the verge of extinction. The project titled 'The Condition of Buddhist Wall Painting Sites in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (Tribal and Backward Areas)' aimed to develop a laboratory in Ladakh in collaboration with the partner institute especially for Himalayan material - thangkha and manuscript, with wall painting as a super specialty. In the first phase of this project, conservations work of (i) Maitreay Temple (Hunder- Nurba), (ii) Karsha Monastery – Nyingm/lakhangand (iii) Gonkhang-Thiksey monastery had been completed. Saboo and Diskit Monasteries have a sizeable collection of tangkha that are not in use for puja. 10 thangkhas from both monasteries were restored by IGNCA conservation laboratory. Apart from this, four trainees from Ladakh were selected for training. IGNCA has signed MOU with Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (a Deemed University), Leh, Ladakh to explore, research, and for field work and capacity building programme in this domain. In Jammu and Kashmir, the conservation work of Karsha Monastery- Nyingma Lakhang, Gonkhang- Thiksey monastery and in Himachal Pradesh, conservation work of Maitreay Temple (Hunder- Nurba), Saboo and Diskit monasteries has been done by IGNCA.

Documentation of Pictorial graffiti of mural paintings/wall paintings of 105 Temples in Baiswada (Uttar Pradesh) has also been done by IGNCA.

(c): No, sir.

(d): Does not arise.

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