

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-787

ANSWERED ON - 26/7/2024

PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL SITES ABROAD

787. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to preserve or conserve cultural sites abroad, especially in the South East Asian region and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has faced any challenges or obstacles in implementing these cultural preservation projects abroad and if so, the details thereof and remedial action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether there are any long-term maintenance and sustainability plans in place for the cultural sites that India has helped to preserve or conserve abroad, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The government has made conscious efforts in working towards conservation of cultural sites abroad, especially in the South-East Asian region in recent times. In March 2020, a dedicated Division in MEA-- DPA IV --was established for undertaking such conservation projects. This Division implements such projects through the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture.

Over the years, India has carried out about 60 completed projects in 21 countries. Details of projects currently being undertaken are as per Annexure-1.

(b) The government has not faced any challenges or obstacles in their implementation, apart from issues like pandemic travel restrictions. These projects are undertaken as a part of our bilateral development cooperation activities. The projects are identified in consultation with the host country and an inter-governmental MoU is signed for the implementation of such projects.

(c) Preservation and conservation of heritage sites and antiquities require sustained conservation efforts over a long period of time. During the implementation of the project, it is ensured that the local monument authority works in close partnership with ASI experts in order to ensure that they have the necessary capacity for carrying out periodic routine maintenance work. The conservation project includes necessary

components for site improvement works and tourist amenities which ensure long-term sustainability of the conservation work carried out. Apart from this, MEA through ASI periodically deposes experts to respond to any conservation related issues.

ANNEXURE-1

Project	Country
Vat Phou Shiva Temple	Lao PDR
Ta Prohm Temple	Cambodia
Preah Vihar	Cambodia
Bagan temple	Myanmar
Friday Mosque	Maldives
My Son group of temples	Vietnam
Conservation of Ramayana Murals at Wat Raja Bo Pagoda	Cambodia
