

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO.1838
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

PARKING FACILITIES AT HERITAGE MONUMENTS

1838. SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability and proper management of parking facilities at Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) managed monuments
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the poor management of parking facilities at UNESCO World Heritage sites like the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, which negatively impacts visitor experiences, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to engage with relevant authorities to improve parking infrastructure, introduce FASTag facilities to prevent overcharging and disputes with parking contractors and regulate parking charges at these monuments, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the initiatives that have been implemented by the Government to enhance the overall visitor experience at heritage sites, considering the importance of holistic service management, regardless of which authority manages specific facilities; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to establish uniform standards for parking facilities, including the integration of technology like FASTag and to improve visitor amenities at ASI managed monuments and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Parking at the protected monuments is generally provided by the local planning & Authorities/Administration. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) makes provisions for
- (b) parking of vehicles wherever space is available. At present the parking facility is available at 106 monuments and areas. Further, the parking facility is developed and managed by the local authority at Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri and Red Fort.
- (c) The mandate of ASI is the protection, conservation and preservation of the protected monuments and areas. However, ASI takes all possible steps to ensure the parking charges are reasonable at ASI managed parking areas.
- (d) Besides the routine maintenance, upkeep and conservation, ASI is providing the basic tourist amenities and facilities such as drinking water, toilets, signage's, visitor's benches, cafeterias, baby feeding rooms, wheel chairs, audio guides, pathways, ramps, garbage bins etc. based upon the footfall and feasibility. In addition to that interpretation centers, light and sound shows, illumination etc. have also been provided at some of the monuments in collaboration with Department of Tourism/ Local Administration. The Ministry of Culture has also launched "Adopt A Heritage Program 2.0" to enhance the visitors experience by providing and improving the amenities in the monument premises by the corporate bodies.
- (e) No such proposal is under consideration with ASI at present.