

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3626
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE SITES

3626. SHRI TANUJ PUNIA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has acknowledged that it cannot protect all heritage sites alone;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to facilitate greater private participation in conservation, beyond the underutilised 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme;
- (c) whether the ASI survey has identified multiple protected monuments in poor condition but does not provide a timeline for their restoration; and
- (d) if so, the details of the mechanisms in place to ensure timely action and the current timeline for addressing these deteriorating sites?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protects monuments and archaeological sites that have been declared as of national importance. However, given the vast cultural landscape of India, state governments, local bodies, and other stakeholders are also encouraged to play a role in protecting and preserving local heritage.
- (b) Conservation of protected monuments and sites is also taken up under scheme of National Cultural Fund (NCF) to encourage the private participation. Further, ASI has developed a framework for engaging with the private/public sector companies to develop/provide amenities at protected monuments through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. Revamped version of the "Adopt A Heritage program 2.0" was launched on 04.09.2023 by Union Minister of Culture to enhance visitor's experience with a view to make the monuments visitor friendly.
- (c) ASI takes up conservation and maintenance works including provision of amenities like & drinking water, toilet blocks, pathways and landscaping etc. of protected monuments and
- (d) sites of national importance as per the requirement considering availability of funds and resources and following the National Conservation Policy. Further, upkeep and maintenance of the protected monuments and sites is a continuous process.
