

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2637
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.3.2016
PHALGUNA 24, 1937 (SAKA)

SATELLITE MAPPING OF MONUMENTS

2637. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to create a repository of satellite based surveillance photographs on more than 3000 protected monuments that are under threat from frenzied construction activity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND
MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a)to(d) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for preparation of satellite based maps indicating prohibited and regulated areas clearly for the information of public and also to facilitate procedure for grant of permissions for construction related activity within prohibited and regulated areas of all 3686 centrally protected monuments. ISRO has a repository of photographs of various monuments/sites that have been taken at periodic intervals. Using these photographs that are taken routinely through satellites over a period of time and combining them with the map-plotted boundaries of plots for which permissions under AMASR Act have been given, a surveillance system is within the realm of technological possibility.