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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2376

ANSWERED ON: 30.08.2007

**CONSERVATION OF TEMPLES IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN**

RANEN BARMAN

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has recently taken any step to help the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan in rehabilitation and conservation of Hindu and Buddhist temples in those countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance, architectural expertise and other help proposed to be given to Pakistan and Afghanistan for the purpose; and
- (c) whether the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan have given any indication as to when the work on the proposed projects at various places would start and the time likely to be taken for their completion?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)**

(a) to (c) The Government has responded to the requests made by the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Afghanistan as detailed below:

Pakistan: A request was received for technical assistance for restoration of Katasraj Temples Complex. The Government sent an official of the Archaeological Survey of India to visit Katasraj. The detailed report prepared by ASI has been sent to the Government of Pakistan. A response is awaited.

Afghanistan: A request was received for India's assistance for restoration of the historic 'Stoor Palace' in Kabul. CPWD was asked to undertake a pre – feasibility study for the restoration.

Afghan Government has also requested for India's cooperation in the field of Archaeology, Archives, Monuments and Museums. A team of officials from Archaeological Survey of India visited Afghanistan and submitted a report. Four projects have been identified (a) Conservation, preservation and restoration of Museum Objects at National Museum (b) Conservation, preservation and restoration of Manuscripts at National Archives (c) Setting up of field conservation laboratory at Institute of Archaeology and (d) Setting up of Photo Laboratory at Institute of Archaeology. These projects are in initial stages of consideration.