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Title: Regarding bringing heritage sites and temples under ASI.

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): The Union Government has recently proposed to bring in more heritage sites, important sites of worship including ancient temples, that are currently under the control of State Governments, to the list of Centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The Ministry has mentioned that there are there are about 7,000 temples in Tamil Nadu alone, many of which are hundreds of years old. These temples have a special identity and historical significance.

The present proposal to bring more such monuments from the State list under the ASI's control is unfair.

The move to include temples in Tamil Nadu under the ASI would hurt the sentiments of the devotees in the state of Tamil Nadu. I strongly oppose the Central Government's alleged cultural imposition and the invasion of Tamil culture.