

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2056
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
ENCROACHMENT ON MONUMENTS
Dube Shri Ramesh;Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of monuments of historical importance are being damaged due to illegal encroachment;
- (b) if so, the details of such monuments;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a number of monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India have been struck out as being irreparable;
- (d) if so, the details of such monuments; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to remove encroachment in and around of monuments of historical importance?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE(SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

- (a)&(b) The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes conservation of centrally protected monuments including those under encroachment, to the extent possible, based on the need of monuments and subject to availability of resources.
- (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has not struck out any monument as irreparable.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e) The Superintending Archaeologists of the Circles have been delegated the powers of the Central Government to issue 'Show Cause Notice' to encroacher for removal of encroachments under the provisions of AM&ASR Act, 1958 and Rules 1959.

They are also vested with the powers of Estate Officer under the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to initiate immediate legal action against the encroachers. They watch and inspect the centrally protected monuments/sites on a regular basis. They also interact with the District authorities and the State Police from time to time to thwart/remove encroachments. The ASI has deployed watch and ward staff in addition to the deployment of private security guards, State Police and Home Guards, and CISF in selected cases.

Wherever feasible and necessary, efforts have been made to provide fencing around centrally protected monuments.