

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4608
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
DAMAGE TO MONUMENTS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of wilful damage or disfiguring of monuments by miscreants, reported from various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the monuments and punish the culprits;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Monument Authority;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of its proposed functions; and
- (e) the time by which the said Authority is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. There are instances of scriblings and graffiti on the walls of some monuments due to lack of awareness and ignorance about the cultural heritage amongst the people. The Archaeological Survey of India organizes awareness programmes at the monuments from time to time. The watch and ward staff has been asked to be vigilant in order to detect such acts of vandalism. Besides, penalty could also be imposed on the miscreants who indulge in the acts of damage or disfiguring of the monuments in any manner in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. The Ministry of Tourism also organizes awareness campaign through print and electronic media.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Proposal for the constitution of the National Monument Authority has been approved by the Central Government. The details of composition, functions and powers, of the proposed National Monument Authority are at Annexure-I.

(e): Though the formal proposal for the constitution of the National Monument Authority has been approved by the Central Government, no time-frame for its establishment can be specified, at this juncture.