

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

ENCROACHMENT OF MONUMENTS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether several protected monuments in the country have been illegally encroached upon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and circle-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is making sincere efforts to get the encroached land vacated; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to keep the historical monuments free from encroachments?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. There are instances of illegal encroachments at 249 centrally protected monuments due to several factors such as rapid urbanization, increasing pressures on land, commercialization, etc. A statement showing the list of monuments and archaeological sites and remains under encroachment is at the Annexure. The Superintending Archaeologists of the Circles concerned have been delegated the powers of the Central Government for the removal of encroachments under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959.

They have also been vested with the powers of Estate Officer under the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to initiate action against the encroachers. They interact with the District authorities and the State Police on regular basis to prevent such illegal activities and to remove encroachers. The Archaeological Survey of India has deployed watch and ward staff as well as private security guards at all the sensitive monuments prone to encroachments. Police Armed Guards, Home Guards, and CISF have also been deployed at a few sensitive monuments. Wherever feasible and necessary, efforts have been made to fence around the centrally protected monuments, and archaeological sites and remains.