

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3633

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

CRITERIA FOR DECLARING PROTECTED MONUMENTS

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government/Archaeological Survey of India(ASI) to declare any monuments as protected monuments;
- (b) the total number of monuments/ religious places identified by ASI for maintenance and upkeep, State-wise and circle-wise;
- (c) funds allocated during the last three years and current year and actually spent during the above period;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that 800 year old historical monument known as Lal Mahal or Red Palace has been demolished by a private builder in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether it is a fact that still there are around seventy thousand buildings and monuments which are not in the list of protected monuments;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) The Central Government may declare ancient monuments or archaeological sites and remains as of national importance under the provisions of section (4) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Broadly, following criteria is adopted by the Central Government:

- (i) The ancient monument or archaeological site is not less than 100 years;
- (ii) It has special historical, archaeological or artistic interest, making it worthy of declaration as of national importance;
- (iii) It qualifies under the provisions of definition as contained under section 2(a) and (d) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958;
- (iv) The interested public do not have major objections on the intention of the Central Government to declare them as of national importance;
- (v) The authenticity and integrity of the ancient monument or archaeological site and remains have not been damaged; and
- (vi) It is free from major encumbrances.

(b) At present there are 3,676 centrally protected monuments/sites declared as of national importance and the State-wise list is at Annexure.

(c) The allocation and expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation, maintenance by way of structural repairs, chemical treatment and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in the country during the last three years and current year are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)
Year Allocation Expenditure

2007-08	12704.00	12886.19
2008-09	13588.00	13498.60

2009-10 15352.5 15300.43
2010-11 13590.00 9188.30
(Allocation)
(Upto Oct. 2010)

(d)&(e) Lal Mahal located in West Nizamuddin, New Delhi, is a 13th century monument. It is not declared as a monument of national importance. In October, 2008, as soon as unauthorized demolition activity was noticed, a complaint was immediately lodged by the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI) with the local police. A show cause notice was also issued to the offenders under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959. The Delhi Government had also been requested to direct the concerned agencies to take necessary steps to prevent damage to the heritage structure.

(f)to(h)It is not possible to indicate the accurate number of unprotected monuments/sites since no systematic survey of monuments and sites and antiquarian remains in the country has been undertaken by the ASI or any other agency. The Central Government, however, has set up the National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities to create a national database on monuments and antiquities.