

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4691

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010

MISUSE OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS

Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is looking into activities like film shooting, misuse of protected sites, holding of functions/parties near historical monuments and heritage sites under ASI purview;
- (b) if so, whether the existing rules are adequate in respect of keeping strict vigilance upon visitors, who deface monuments;
- (c) whether it is due to indifferent attitude of the ASI staff or their connivance that incident of defacement of monuments is noticed in several places; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps being taken to achieve zero-tolerance for such undesirable acts?

Answer

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

- (a) The proposals for grant of permissions for filming operation and holding of cultural events/functions within the limits of centrally protected monuments and their misuse come under the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.
- (b) The penalty under section (30) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 has been enhanced as per the Amendment Act, 2010 from three months imprisonment to two years and fine from five thousand rupees to one lakh, or both, which appear to be adequate to contain the act of defacement of the monuments, declared as of national importance.
- (c)& (d) No, Sir. The inadequate watch and ward staff strength is the main reason as to why it has not been possible to achieve zero-tolerance towards the defacement of the monuments. However, the ASI has strengthened the watch and ward by deployment of additional private security guards at the vulnerable monuments as per the resources available.