

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3559
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
ENCROACHMENT ON MONUMENTS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 200 Centrally Protected Monuments(CPMs) are under illegal encroachment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the nature of encroachment taking place in the CPMs sites; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government against unauthorized encroachments to preserve/protect the CPMs sites?

Answer

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

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. There are instances of illegal encroachments at centrally protected monuments due to several factors such as rapid urbanization, increasing pressures on land, commercialization, etc. A statement showing the State-wise list of monuments and archaeological sites and remains under encroachment is at the Annexure.

The Superintending Archaeologists of the Circles have been delegated the powers of the Central Government for the removal of encroachments under the provisions of AM&ASR Act, 1958 and Rules 1959.

They are also vested with the powers of an 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 sensitive monuments prone to encroachment. State Police, Home Guards, and CISF have also been deployed at a few sensitive monuments.

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