

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:15  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011  
DEFAACEMENT OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS  
Shantha J.

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

- (a) whether the Government has framed any guidelines to prevent the defacement of historical monuments in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of continued defacing of historical monuments in the country particularly in the State of Karnataka inspite of the said guidelines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the said monument?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE(KUMARI SELJA)

(a)to(e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.15 FOR 22.11.2011

There are no specific guidelines to prevent the defacement of historical monuments in the country. However, penalty clauses exist in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 in which such acts are punishable.

Sporadic incidents of defacing of monuments do occur in the country, including in the State of Karnataka. Instances of scribbblings and graffiti on the walls of some monuments, may be due to lack of awareness and ignorance about the cultural heritage. With a view to contain such activities, Archaeological Survey of India is organizing periodic awareness programmes and also through exhibitions at the monuments from time to time by involving public as well as school and college students. The issue is being highlighted once again during the World Heritage Week celebrations, between 19th and 25th November, 2011, all over the country through the initiative of Circle/Branch and regional offices of Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also organizes awareness campaign under 'Incredible India' through print and electronic media.

The watch and ward staff have been asked to be vigilant in order to detect such acts of vandalism and the supervisory staff undertake regular inspections. In addition the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been provided for the safety and security of selected monuments.