

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
RELOCATION OF SETTLEMENTS NEAR MONUMENTS
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has identified a number of historical structures as national monuments and banned all building activities within the parameter of 100 meters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the rules framed in this regard;
- (c) Whether the Government has any proposal to relocate the people living near important national monuments across the country including the Ashokan Rock Edict at Kalkaji in South Delhi;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to preserve the said important monuments particularly the Ashokan Rock Edict?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Archaeological Survey of India looks after 3,677 monuments/sites that are declared as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. An abstract is at Annexure. Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Framing of Heritage Bye-laws and Other Functions of the Competent Authority) Rules, 2011 and National Monuments Authority (Appointment, Functions and Conduct of Business) Rules, 2011 have already been notified and the above institutional mechanism has been provided for, to deal with the applications for grant of permission to undertake repairs/renovation/re-construction or construction in 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas.

The persons having buildings or houses in the prohibited area (100 metres from protected monuments) of any Centrally - protected monument may undertake repairs and renovation after obtaining permission from the Competent Authority on the recommendation of the National Monuments Authority.

(c)to(e) There is no such proposal as on date with the Archaeological Survey of India to relocate the people living near important national monuments across the country including the Ashokan Rock Edict at Kalkaji in South Delhi.

The conservation, preservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process, on need basis as per archaeological norms, subject to the availability of resources.