

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1087

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

ENCROACHMENT AND VANDALISM OF MONUMENTS

Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether encroachment and vandalism of different categories of monuments continues unabated in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take more concrete steps to stop vandalism and encroachment of the said monuments to protect them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No, Sir. No such instances have been reported in recent past. However, in the past encroachments at centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites and remains have occurred due to several factors such as rapid urbanization, increasing pressures on land, commercialization, etc. A State-wise list of monuments, archaeological sites and remains under encroachment is at Annexure.

(c)&(d) As and when an encroachment is noticed by the field office of Archaeological Survey of India, FIR is lodged with the local police followed by Show Cause Notice by the Archaeological Survey of India to the offender. As all the Superintending Archaeologist of the Circles are also vested with the powers of Estate Officer, action is also initiated under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971, wherever applicable. Non compliance of the Show Cause Notice is followed by demolition order to the offender as well as the District Collector/Magistrate to cause removal of such encroachment within a specified period. In certain specific cases, ASI also avails of the last option to file litigation against the encroachers before the appropriate Court of Law.

(e) Does not arise.