

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6569
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS NEAR PROTECTED MONUMENTS
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that residential colonies and multi-storey buildings are being developed/constructed near the protected historical monuments in various parts of the country including Sarnath, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh violating the rules/guidelines under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 in connivance with the officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the number of such cases reported in the country including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has inquired/proposes to inquire into the said matter;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof along with the action taken against the erring persons/ officials, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

(a)to(e) Due to fast urbanization, commercialization and rising cost of the land, instances of unauthorized constructions, colonies and multi-storey buildings in the prohibited and regulated area of centrally protected monuments in the country, including Sarnath, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) have come to the notice of the Archaeological Survey of India in violation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. The Archaeological Survey of India takes action like lodging Police complaints /FIR, and issues notices and orders on all such cases as per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 for removal of such structures. The details of demolition orders issued is at Annexure-I. It is, however, stated that no specific report on connivance of ASI official in this regard has come to the notice. The State/ UT-wise details of unauthorized construction are at Annexure-II.