

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1196  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013  
ACTIVITIES NEAR PROTECTED MONUMENTS  
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

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

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is looking into activities like shooting of films, misuse of protected sites, holding of functions/parties near historical monuments and heritage sites under the purview of ASI;
- (b) if so, whether the existing rules are adequate for maintaining strict vigilance upon the visitors, who deface monuments;
- (c) whether due to the indifferent attitude of the ASI staff or their connivance, incidents of defacement of monuments is noticed in several places; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps being taken to achieve zero-tolerance for such undesirable acts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

- (a) The proposals for grant of permissions for shooting of films and holding of cultural events/functions within the limits of centrally protected monuments and their misuse come under the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.
- (b) The penalty under section (30) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 has been enhanced as per the Amendment Act, 2010 from three months imprisonment to two years and fine from five thousand rupees to one lakh, or both, to act as a deterrent to contain the acts of defacement of the monuments declared as of national importance.
- (c)&(d) No, Madam. The inadequate watch and ward staff strength is one of the main reasons as to why it has not been possible to fully contain the acts of the defacement of monuments. However, the ASI has strengthened the watch and ward by deployment of additional private security guards at the vulnerable monuments as per the resources available.