

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3271
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
MAINTENANCE OF GHATS AND TOMBS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is properly maintaining the ghats and tombs built in memory of various leaders /dignitaries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the works done in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to redevelop such memorials and places of importance from the National and historical points of view so as to make them completely free from congestion and encroachment of nearby areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

(a)&(b) There are 3,678 centrally protected monuments/sites in the country under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI), which comprise a variety of monuments including prehistoric sites, proto-historic sites, megalithic burials, rock-cut caves, stupas, temples, ghats, mosques, churches, forts, water systems, pillars, inscriptions, bas reliefs, monolithic statues, sculptures,etc. The ASI maintains these protected monuments and sites, including ghats and tombs, on regular basis depending upon their special needs within the available manpower and financial resources.

The expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation and maintenance by way of structural repairs, chemical treatment and environmental development during the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Year | Expenditure |
|---------|-------------|
| 2010-11 | 15649.50 |
| 2011-12 | 13389.88 |
| 2012-13 | 14861.02 |
| 2013-14 | 18404.00 |

(Allocation)

(c) For decongesting the areas around the centrally protected monuments, the Government had issued a notification in June, 1992 declaring 100 meters from the protected limits of centrally protected monuments/ sites as prohibited area and another 200 meters from this limit as regulated area prohibiting and regulating construction activities, respectively. Recently, the Central Government enacted the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010, which has more stringent provisions to prohibit and regulate construction related activities in the prohibited and regulated areas of the centrally protected monuments/sites. The penal provisions have also been enhanced from three months imprisonment to two years or fine from five thousand rupees to one lakh rupees or both for causing damage, alteration, misuse and other acts of similar nature at the centrally protected monuments and protected areas. These measures constitute a major governmental initiative to arrest encroachments/pressures on the monuments and sites that are declared as of national importance. The Superintending Archaeologists of the ASI are empowered to take legal steps for eviction of encroachers under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 and rules framed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The ASI has also initiated steps to landscape the open area around the protected monuments with proper fencing not only with the objective to develop them from tourism point of view but also to thwart likely encroachments.