

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1304
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014
ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENT CONSTRUCTION ON MONUMENTS
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of historical and protected buildings/structures in the country have been illegally encroached upon by certain individuals and groups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the complaints received so far from individuals/ bodies in the matter; State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken to keep such monuments free from encroachment; and
- (d) the number of encroachments removed by the Archaeological Survey of India during each of the last three years and the current year, State and monument-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) There are instances of 278 numbers of encroachments in some of the centrally protected monuments in the country and a detailed list (State-wise) is at Annexure-I. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes action for removal of encroachments whenever it is noticed by ASI officials without waiting for any complaints from individuals or bodies.

(c) The encroachments in the protected monuments and protected areas are removed as per the provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains 1958 (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and Rules framed thereunder. In order to contain the encroachments and removing them, the Superintending Archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. They are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains 1958 (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and Rules 1959 followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment under section 19 (2) of the Act and Section 38 (2) of the Rule. Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is also sought from the respective State Government/police force and where there are no fruitful results, actions are initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the court of law. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been provided for the safety and security of selected monuments.

(d) The details of monuments from where the encroachments have been removed during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-II.