

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2410  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014  
CRITERIA TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICES OF ASI  
Jigajinagi Shri Ramesh Chandappa

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

- (a) whether many offices of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have been located inside the historical monuments of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the criteria to establish regional office of Archaeological Survey of India;
- (c) whether any reference library has been located inside the historical monuments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the repercussion on the condition of monuments due to the installation of air-conditioners in such offices/libraries;
- (e) whether the Government has instructed the ASI to move their offices in different locations from the historic monuments; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to establish new regional offices of ASI in various States including Karnataka?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) Some of the offices of Superintending Archaeologist have been located inside a monument. Offices of Conservation Assistant are often located inside the monument to ensure its maintenance and upkeep and for essential watch and ward. Similarly offices of security personnel are also located inside the monuments. Regional Director's Offices have been established to supervise Offices of the Superintending Archaeologists located in their respective zones. At present there are 5 Regional Directors in Archaeological Survey of India i.e. North, South, East, West and Central.
- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) In certain cases such as Fort St. George, Chennai, Safdarjung Tomb and Institute of Archaeology, libraries have been established inside the monuments. Air- conditioners are often required to be installed to help in preservation of rare books, manuscript, etc. in the libraries. However, installation of air-condi- tioners or other equipment is done in a way that it does not impact the authenticity and integrity of the monument nor any damage is caused.
- (e) Yes. It is part of ASI conservation policy.
- (f) Instructions have been issued to relocate some of the ASI offices to new office buildings in a phased manner. There is at present no proposal to establish new offices of Regional Directors, ASI.