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Title: Need to remove the restrictions imposed by Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2010.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR) : I would like to bring the following matter of urgent public importance to Government notice so that hardships caused due to the implementation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2010 are removed immediately.

Lakhs of people in my constituency are being denied their basic amenities even after their housing plans had been duly approved by the competent authorities.

Residential zones are declared as prohibited areas and the authorities prevent repair/renovation within 300 metre-radius of protected monuments. Whenever people apply to get NOC for making even small alterations/modifications, the ASI is preventing the local bodies from issuing NOC by citing this Act. The ASI rules treat these areas at par with Taj Mahal. It is an irony that areas like Sembakkam, Tambaram, Pallavaram, Meenambakkam including Airport in Chennai are covered by this restriction.

It is pertinent to point out that the Acts, as also the rules and regulations are for the benefit of the people and not to cause undue hardships.

I urge the Government to issue necessary instructions so that the whole of my constituency is removed from the purview of ASI.