

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 131
ANSWERED ON 31.7.2025

VACANCIES AND ENCROACHMENT ISSUES UNDER ASI RAIGANJ CIRCLE

*131. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- a) whether it is a fact that there is 40 per cent vacancy in sanctioned posts at ASI Raiganj Circle and if so, the steps being taken to fill these vacancies;
- b) total number of monuments under the protection of ASI Raiganj, along with the number of those affected by encroachments and unauthorized constructions, including their names and locations;
- c) whether any notices or legal actions have been initiated against encroachers at ASI protected monuments in the Raiganj Circle and if so, the status of these actions; and
- d) measures Government is taking to protect heritage sites under ASI Raiganj from further encroachments and ensure their proper conservation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 131 FOR 31.7.2025 RAISED BY SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING VACANCIES AND ENCROACHMENT ISSUES UNDER ASI RAIGANJ CIRCLE.

- (a) :Yes Sir. At present, there are approximately 40% vacancies at Raiganj Circle of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The vacancy position at Raiganj Circle, ASI is as under: -

Group	Sanctioned	In position	Vacancies
Group-A	4	1	3
Group-B	13	5	8
Group-C	122	77	45
Total	139	83	56

Out of the 56 vacancies in Raiganj Circle, 33 vacancies pertain to Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS). 08 casual labours who have been granted 1/30th status are currently working against the MTS vacancies while appointment orders for 05 more newly recruited MTSs have been issued in July, 2025.

Filling up of vacancies is an ongoing process and the vacancies in ASI are filled up by Promotion, Deputation and Direct Recruitment. The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings for filling up the vacant posts through Promotion are held at regular intervals, subject to fulfilling of eligibility criteria by officials in the feeder grades. The vacancies to be filled up by Deputation are advertised as per laid down procedure. The vacancies falling under Direct Recruitment (DR) quota are promptly reported to the Recruitment agencies i.e., UPSC and SSC.

The Staff Selection Commission has recently declared the results for 85 Junior Secretariat Assistants and 155 Conservation Assistants which will further bring down the vacancies.

- (b) : There are 52 protected monuments and protected areas (sites) under care and maintenance of Raiganj Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. Unauthorized construction is reported at 28 monuments and encroachment is reported at 5 monuments. The details of these protected monuments and protected areas (sites) in Raiganj circle are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

- (c) : The ASI has taken action on noticing any such activities on or around the protected monuments by way of issuing Stop Notices to defaulters and writing to State/local authorities for taking appropriate action including filing police complaints.

- (d) : In order to contain the encroachments and remove them, the Superintending Archaeologist is authorised to issue show cause notices and lodge police complaints, followed by a communication to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment. Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is also sought from the respective State Government/Police Authorities from time to time. Further, in addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments/sites. Besides, regular inspections are carried out to assess conservation requirement and measures are taken accordingly.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
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Sl. No	Name of Monuments/sites	Locality	District	Encroachment	Unauthorized/illegal construction (Prohibited/Regulated)
1.	Cooch Behar Palace along with area in part of survey plot Nos. 178 and 6002 and survey plot No. 6003.	Cooch Behar	Cooch Behar		Yes
2.	Rajpat Site comprised in Survey plot No. 1422 containing an area of 7.04 acres bounded on the North by Survey plot Nos. 1427, 1426, 1786, 1425 and 1424; East by Survey plot No. 1423; South by Survey plot Nos. 1373, 1375, 1376, 1393, 1780, 1411 and 1412; West by Survey plot Nos. 1411, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1417, 1420 and 1428.	Khalisa Gosanimari	Cooch Behar		Yes
3.	Tomb of Alexander-Cosma de Koros	Darjeeling	Darjeeling		
4.	Tomb of General Llyod	Darjeeling	Darjeeling		
5.	Mounds at Bangarh	Bangarh	Dakshin Dinajpur	Yes	Yes
6.	The Dargah of Shah Ata	Gangaram-pur	Dakshin Dinajpur		Yes
7.	The Baraduari Masjid or the great golden mosque	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
8.	The Dakhil Darwaza or the northern gate of the fort	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
9.	Firoz Minar or the Tower of Firoz Shab	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
10.	Qudam Rasul Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
11.	The Tantipara Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		
12.	The Lotton Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
13.	The Chika Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		
14.	The Chamkatti Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		
15.	The two stone pillars	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
16.	Two tombs in front of the Tantipara Masjid	Gaur	Maldah		
17.	The tomb of Fath Khan	Gaur	Maldah		
18.	The tower of Nimasarai	Nimasarai	Maldah		Yes
19.	Adina Mosque	Pandua	Maldah		Yes
20.	Eklakhi Mausoleum	Pandua	Maldah		Yes
21.	Kutub Shahi Masjid	Pandua	Maldah		Yes
22.	Bhita of Chand Sadagar	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
23.	Kotowali Darwaza	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
24.	Gunmant Mosque	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
25.	Gunti gateway	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
26.	Lukachuri gateway	Gaur	Maldah		
27.	Baisgazi wall	Gaur	Maldah		Yes
28.	The tomb of Azimunnessa Begum, daughter of Murshid Kuli Khan	Azimnagar	Murshidabad		Yes
29.	The Residency cemetery at Babulbona also known as "station burial ground"	Babulbona, Baharampur	Murshidabad		
30.	Bhavanisvar Mandir in Plot No. 130 (part)	Baranagar	Murshidabad		

31.	Char Bangla group of four Siva Mandirs in Plot No. 141 (part), 142, 143 (part)	Baranagar	Murshidabad		
32.	The tomb of Mir Madan	Faridpur	Murshidabad		
33.	The Dutch cemetery	Kalikapur	Murshidabad		
34.	The Old English Cemetery or the Old Residency burial-ground	Kasim Bazar	Murshidabad		Yes
35.	The ancient monument	Kheraul	Murshidabad		
36.	The tomb and the mosque of Aliverdi Khan & the tomb of Seraj-ud-Dowla	Khosbagh	Murshidabad		Yes
37.	The two mounds called the Barkona Deul mounds	Panchthupi	Murshidabad		
38.	Mounds known as the Devil's mound and Raja Karna's palace	Chiruti	Murshidabad		
39.	Tomb of Suja-uddin	Roshniganj	Murshidabad		
40.	The tank & mosque of Murshid Kuli Khan	Sabjikatra	Murshidabad		Yes
41.	The Jahan Kosha Gun	Topkhana	Murshidabad		Yes
42.	Hazar Duari Palace & Imambara together with adjacent area comprised in part of survey plot Nos. 1, 3, 9 and survey plot Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 and 18	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad	Yes	Yes
43.	South Gate	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad		Yes
44.	Imambara	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad	Yes	Yes
45.	White Mosque	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad		
46.	Yellow Mosque with vacant land	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad	Yes	
47.	Tripolia Gate	Kumrapur	Murshidabad		
48.	Nil Kuthi Mound	Chalk Chandpara	Murshidabad		
49.	Motijhil Jama Masjid	Murshidabad	Murshidabad	Yes	Yes
50.	Rabdentse Site- Ancient Capital of Sikkim	West Geyzing	Geyzing, Sikkim		
51.	Dubdi Monastery	West Geyzing	Geyzing, Sikkim		
52.	Coronation Throne	West Geyzing	Geyzing, Sikkim		