

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026**

MONUMENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

***282. DR. SANTRUPT MISRA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is drawing on international best practices, expert agencies and partner countries in monument conservation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of vacancies in the ASI and the adequacy of its human resources; and
- (c) the steps being taken to attract younger generation to archaeology and conservation, as a career?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
- to
- (c)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *282 FOR 13.08.2026.

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) follows established international conservation principles, guidelines and best practices in the conservation of Centrally Protected Monuments (CPMs)/sites under their jurisdiction. Wherever required, ASI also undertakes scientific and technical studies in collaboration with specialized expert institutions, including IITs and CBRI. Under bilateral cooperation, ASI has also undertaken conservation and restoration projects in partner countries.

(b) The sanctioned strength in the Archaeological Survey of India is **8755**, against which **5682** officials are presently in position and **3073** posts are vacant. Out of 3073 vacancies, 1913 vacancies are of Multi - Tasking Staff (MTS).

The adequacy of manpower in the Archaeological Survey of India is reviewed on a continuous basis through the sanctioned strength of various Circles, which is determined keeping in view the functional requirements, number of Centrally Protected Monuments (CPMs)/sites under their jurisdiction and other administrative considerations. Deployment of available manpower is also reviewed from time to time to ensure conservation, maintenance and management of centrally protected monuments and sites.

Further, the vacancies in Archaeological Survey of India 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. The Posts 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.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India, through its Institute of Archaeology, provides opportunities for academic and practical training in archaeology and allied disciplines. The Institute conducts a one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology for national and international students, providing theoretical as well as practical training in Archaeology and allied disciplines such as Art, Architecture, Prehistory, Protohistory, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Iconography and Museology.
