

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2898
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

2898. SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note that 531 of the 3,691 Centrally Protected Monuments are reported to be under encroachment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken cognisance of CAG's observations regarding deficiencies in boundary and land ownership details of such monuments, resulting in difficulties in protecting them from encroachment and land disputes; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to undertake a time-bound programme for survey, geo-referencing and digitisation of boundaries of all such monuments and integrate the same with State land records to strengthen their legal protection?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 3688 ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance in the country, out of which 414 monuments and sites have reported encroachments. The State-wise details are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) The Government has taken cognisance of the observations. Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, (AMASR Act, 1958) protection of a monument does not mandatorily require acquisition or ownership of the land on which the monument is situated. The primary objective of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is to carry out conservation and maintenance of protected monuments in accordance with the provisions of the AMASR Act, 1958 and the Rules, 1959 made thereunder. Wherever encroachments or unauthorised activities are noticed, appropriate action is taken under the relevant provisions of the AMASR Act, 1958, and the rules framed thereunder. Further, to fix the boundary of the monuments; joint survey is conducted in coordination with the local revenue officials for safeguarding the protected boundaries of monuments and sites.
- (c) The ASI has completed the survey, geo-referencing and digitisation of the boundaries of protected monuments and sites, and the same have been uploaded on the Bhuvan Portal. Integration of such data with State land records is undertaken, wherever required, in coordination with the respective State Governments and revenue authorities.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2898 FOR 13.08.2026.

STATE-WISE DETAILS OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS AND AREAS (SITES) HAVING ENCROACHMENT

Sl.No.	Name of State / U.T.	Number of monuments and areas (sites) under encroachment
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
3.	Assam	12
4.	Bihar	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	12
6.	Daman & Diu (U.T.)	01
7.	Goa	01
8.	Gujarat	11
9.	Haryana	06
10.	Himachal Pradesh	03
11.	Jammu & Kashmir (U.T.)	12
12.	Karnataka	60
13.	Madhya Pradesh	03
14.	Maharashtra	49
15.	N.C.T. Delhi (U.T.)	14
16.	Odisha	13
17.	Punjab	03
18.	Rajasthan	30
19.	Sikkim	01
20.	Telangana	03
21.	Tamilnadu	72
22.	Tripura	01
23.	Uttar Pradesh	78
24.	West Bengal	15
	TOTAL	414
