

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.09.2020

SETTING UP OF NEW CIRCLES OF ASI

215. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has announced setting up of new Circles of Archaeological Survey of India;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of circles across the country as on 31st August, 2020; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen the process of preservation and registration of archaeological monuments along with registration of artefacts with self declaration?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Archaeological Survey of India, an attached office of Ministry of Culture, Government of India vide Notification dated 28.8.2020 established Six new Circles by bifurcation of its existing Circles as per details given below:-
 - (i) Rajkot Circle, Gujarat
 - (ii) Jabalpur Circle, Madhya Pradesh
 - (iii) Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) Circle, Tamil Nadu
 - (iv) Meerut Circle, Uttar Pradesh
 - (v) Jhansi Circle, Uttar Praesh
 - (vi) Raiganj Circle, West Bengal
- (c) Archaeological Survey of India has 34 Circles and a Mini-Circle, Leh, across the country as on 31st August, 2020.
- (d) (i) The conservation work of protected monument is a continuous process for which regular care is taken by the Archaeological Survey of India.
(ii) There is no process of registration of monuments as it is done in case of antiquities/artifacts.
(iii) All Circles of ASI have Registering Officers under whom antiquities, brought by any citizen are registered. Further Antiquity Registration drives are organized by Circle Offices for creating awareness among the general public regarding the importance of preserving heritage by registering it through self-declaration.