

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3439
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

Archaeological Exploration by ASI

3439. Shri Ananta Nayak:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made any archaeological exploration or expedition to identify and record ancient early historic and medieval inscriptions, prehistoric rock paintings, rock engravings in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and specific plans envisaged and the measures taken by the Government for restoration and preservation of depleted ancient valuables in these protected monuments/sites in the country, including in the State of Odisha and particularly in Kendujhar district;
- (c) the details of broader strategy to safeguard and conserve ancient scriptures including temples in the State of Odisha;
- (d) whether several ancient/historical monuments, archaeological sites and remains are under encroachment; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) regularly conducts archaeological explorations in the country to identify and record the archaeological remains.

(b) and (c) The ASI maintains monuments under its protection. This includes routine conservation, restoration and protection works to ensure the longevity and integrity of these cultural heritage sites of India including Paintings on the rock locally known as Ravana Chhaya and other ancient monuments & remains in Sitabhanji and Daguapasi villages in Kendujhar district of state of Odisha.

(d) and (e) Information on encroachment in monuments and sites and action taken by the ASI in the state of Odisha are given at **Annexure**.

To deal with cases of encroachment in monuments of National importance, ASI files complaints with the police, issues show-cause notices to defaulters for removal of encroachments and issues demolition orders if encroachments are not removed.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) and (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3439 FOR 16.12.2024.

LIST OF PROTECTED MONUMENT AND PROTECTED AREA UNDER ENCROACHMENT IN THE STATE OF ODISHA

Sl. No.	Name of the Monument and site	Locality	District	Nature of encroachment	Action taken for removal
1.	Churanga Garh Fort locally known as Sarangarh	Dadhapatana (Churangarh)	Cuttack & Khurda	Within Protected, Prohibited and regulated Area by State Government & Public by construction of Modern buildings	Letter to District Collector & Show cause notice to concerned
2.	Ruins of Buddhist temples and images	Nalitgiri (Lalitigiri)	Cuttack	Within Protected, prohibited Zone by Public by construction of Modern buildings & Temple	Letter to District Collector
3.	Ruined Fortress	Chaudwar (Arahat, Bandalas, Chattisa, Govindjew Patna)	Cuttack	Within Protected Prohibited and regulated Area by State Government & Public by construction of Modern buildings	Letter to District Collector & Show cause notice to concerned
4.	Old hill containing many valuable sculptures and images	Ratnagiri	Jajpur	Within Protected, Prohibited & Regulated Zone by Public by construction of Modern buildings	Stop notice to concerned
5.	Khandagiri and Udaigiri Caves	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	Construction within protected area	The notices issued to the encroachers
6.	Sisupalgarh	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	Construction within protected area	The notices issued to the encroachers
