

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*142.
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

†*142. SHRI NALIN SOREN:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the specific measures taken currently for protection and conservation of the archaeological sites of historical importance;
- (b) whether any new policies or laws are being proposed by the Government to strengthen the protection of various archaeological sites;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the various funding and resources available for researchers and archaeologists working on conservation of projects being run by the Government;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating formulation of any scheme for the protection and conservation of the 1800 years old Nandasa Yupa pillar located in Bhilwara, Rajasthan; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 142* FOR 10.03.2025. RAISED BY SHRI NALIN SOREN: DR. RAJESH MISHRA: HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) looks after 3698 protected monuments and protected site in the country. Their Conservation, preservation and maintenance is carried out by ASI as per requirement, priority and availability of resources, which is a regular phenomenon. Inspection of monuments and sites is taken up by ASI's officials/officers from time to time to assess their condition and annual works programme is drawn for conservation and maintenance accordingly. To secure protected monuments and sites boundary walls, fencing etc. are provided as per need. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected protected monuments and protected areas across the country.
- (b) Mechanism for protection of monuments and archaeological sites is already in place.
- & Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
- (c) provides, for declaring any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains as of national importance. Further, the conservation and preservation of protected monuments and protected areas are taken up following National Conservation Policy, 2014.
- (d) ASI does not maintain any separate budget head for researches in the field of conservation. Conservation and maintenance of monuments under the jurisdiction of ASI is carried out by the budget allocated by the Government. However, ASI seeks special assistance from the specialized agencies like CBRI, IIT etc. as and when required for any conservation related challenges.
- (e) No proposal is under consideration with ASI at present for the protection of Nandasa Yupa & pillar located in Bhilwara, Rajasthan.
- (f)
