

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1047
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.2.2025

PREVENTING ENCROACHMENT ON MONUMENTS

+1047. SMT. MANJU SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of historical sites/monuments in the country which are preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) including Rajasthan;
- (b) the number of such sites/monuments which have been encroached upon;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to adopt strict measures for preventing the encroachment of said sites/monuments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government for solution of the said problem?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) 3698 ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance are looked after by Archeological Survey of India, out of which 163 are located in the state of Rajasthan.
- (b)to(d) Some of the monuments and sites are under encroachment. The encroachments in the protected monuments and protected areas are removed as per the provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules framed thereunder. In order to contain the encroachments and remove them, the Superintending Archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. They are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959, followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment. Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is also sought from the respective State Government/police authorities from time to time. Further, 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 monuments/sites across the country.
