

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3791**  
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**ENCROACHMENT IN ASI PROTECTED FORTS AND MONUMENTS**

3791. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details along with the number of forts and monuments that are under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the country, location-wise;
- (b) the number of forts and monuments that are under illegal and unauthorised occupation;
- (c) the details of the steps that have been taken by the Government to remove such encroachment; and
- (d) the details of forts/monuments where the Government is unable and to remove the encroachments?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) There are 3698 monuments and archaeological sites and remains including forts declared as of national importance in the country. The details are available at Archaeological Survey of India's web site <http://asi.nic.in>.
- (b) Some of the monuments and sites including forts 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 there under. 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.
- (d) The procedures mentioned above are being implemented. However, complexities involved in the matter and legal issues, sometimes, prolong the process of removal of encroachments.

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