

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO.1464
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULES FOR MONUMENTS

1464. COM. SELVARAJ V:
SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any system to audit the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in its role to protect monuments;
- (b) whether it is a fact that ASI has been lax in preventing encroachers and illegal builders near major monuments in major cities;
- (c) the details of the complaints received on lack of protection and enforcement of rules around protected monuments; and
- (d) the details of the steps proposed to involve the public in such work?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Government has a comprehensive system to audit the performance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Regular audits are conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), internal audit wings, and through specific performance audits.
- (b) The cases of encroachment and illegal construction have been reported in and around some protected monuments and areas (sites), such cases are dealt with through enforcement of the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act) and Rules, 1959. As such there is no laxity on part of ASI to deal with the issue.
- (c) Complaints regarding encroachment have been received in respect of some protected monuments and areas (sites). Such cases are examined and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the AMASR Act and Rules framed thereunder to ensure protection and enforcement.
- (d) Awareness programmes, such as heritage walks; cultural programmes, etc. are conducted on various occasions like World Heritage Day, World Heritage Week, International Museums Day, Republic Day, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti and other occasions by organizing exhibitions, lectures, workshops, competitions, performances etc. involving general public, school and college students. In addition to this, documentaries on heritage are screened at interpretation centers for the benefit of general public. Further; Adopt-A-Heritage program has been introduced to promote heritage and to preserve it for posterity.
