

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.278**  
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

**PHOTO SHOOT INSIDE ASI CONTROLLED TEMPLES**

278. SHRI MATHESWARAN V S:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the numbers of VIP references or recommendations received through call to Trichy and Chennai Circle of ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) seeking permission to take photo shoot inside ASI controlled temples;
- (b) the details of the number of permissions granted by ASI in the State of Tamil Nadu for wedding or any kind of photo shoot inside the temple premises since 2014; and
- (c) the details of the rule and regulations which allow wedding or any kind of photo shoot inside the temple premises

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) No VIP references are received with regard to permissions of photography at the protected monuments situated within the jurisdictions of Chennai and Trichy Circles. Further, photography with handheld or mobile cameras at the protected monument of national importance requires no permission. However, photography with associative equipment's like tripods, reflectors, artificial light and use of flashlights (in respect of paintings such as Ajanta, Leh Palace etc.) requires approval of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.
- (b)& (c) ASI does not issue any permission at protected monuments for wedding ceremonies and associated activities. However, various filming permissions are issued by following necessary procedures. The details of the filming permissions issued by Chennai Circle since 2014 and Trichy Circle from 2020 onwards (since its formation) are attached as **Annexure**.

## ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b)&(c) OF THE LOK SABHA  
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DETAILS OF FILMING PERMISSIONS ISSUED BY CHENNAI CIRCLE AND TRICHY  
CIRCLE SINCE 2014

| <b>Year(s)</b> | <b>Number(s) of permissions issued by<br/>Chennai Circle</b> | <b>Number(s) of permissions issued<br/>by Trichy Circle<br/>(since its formation)</b> |
|----------------|--|---|
| Since 2014     | 17   | --  |
| 2015           | 25   | --  |
| 2016           | 23   | --  |
| 2017           | 17   | --  |
| 2018           | 16   | --  |
| 2019           | 09   | --  |
| 2020           | 03   | --  |
| 2021           | 19   | 03  |
| 2022           | 12   | 05  |
| 2023           | 13   | 05  |
| 2024           | 08   | 01  |
| 2025           | 13   | 02  |

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