

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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR 02.02.2026

DETAILS OF FILMIMG PERMISSIONS ISSUED BY CHENNAI CIRCLE AND TRICHY CIRCLE SINCE 2014

<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Number(s) of permissions issued by Chennai Circle</b>	<b>Number(s) of permissions issued by Trichy Circle (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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