

(e) the steps taken by Government to protect the valuable idols from being stolen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) One case has been reported in March, 2010 at Dharamsala, District Kangra (H.P.). During the routine traffic checking, local police seized a metal image appearing to be of Jain Tirthankara.

(b) The seized idol appears to be of Jain Tirthankara, measuring 21 cm. and weighing 5.255 kg.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The Archaeological Survey of India is fully committed towards the preservation and safety of rare idols etc. at the protected monuments, as well as the site museums. To ensure their safety, the Archaeological Survey of India engages security guards whose strength has been augmented by deploying private security guards, State police, home guards and even the CISF at selected monuments. Constant interaction takes place between Archaeological Survey of India, Central Bureau of Investigation and Customs authorities to share information on smuggling of art objects.

Sustained efforts for construction of monuments

3272. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that early start and sustained efforts have been critical for the conservation of monuments and unfortunately these have been lacking in regard to the historic cities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many historic cities in India have become less desirable places to live in; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Central Government, State/UT Governments and many local bodies in accordance with respective legal instruments are taking due care of the monuments which are located in the historic cities in the country. While the Central Government has declared 3,676 monuments and sites as of national importance, the State Governments, too, have declared about 3500 monuments/sites as protected. The local bodies have also come forward, of course in recent years, in the protection and preservation of heritage buildings located in the historic cities, which are neither protected by the Central Government or State Governments. But still, a large number of monuments/sites and heritage buildings are located in the heritage cities are still unprotected. In so far as protection of historic character of the cities

are concerned, the Central Government has taken a lead in conjunction with the concerned State Governments for the development of infrastructure facilities and urban services by identifying a few of them for the purpose under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) of the Ministry of Urban Development. However, in regard to improvement of such cities, it is essential that the Town and Country Planning Departments of the State Governments and local bodies take adequate measures to upgrade the basic facilities and ensure their protection, especially keeping in view the pressure of population and urbanization, as the Central Government under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 has no role at all to play in the conservation of historic cities.

Funds for maintenance of monuments

3273. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of National Monuments in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the total amount sanctioned for the up keep and maintenance of these monuments State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is going to sanction some additional amount for the purpose in view of escalation in prices of maintenance material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The details of centrally protected monuments in the country, State-wise, are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The details of total amount sanctioned, State-wise, for the current financial year are given in the Statement-II (See below).

(c) Additional amount is provided depending upon the availability and requirement of the different sites.

Statement-I

Centrally Protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India — State-wise and Circle-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos. of Monuments	Name of Circle	Nos. of Monuments
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137	Hyderabad	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	Guwahati	03