

The Fire House of Tipu Sultan (Tipu's Armoury) is not a centrally protected monument.

However, the Government of Karnataka has a proposal to shift the Tipu Sultan's Armoury, which is a State protected monument to make way for doubling of the Bangalore-Mysore Railway line.

(b) Does not arise.

Obstacles on facilities in ASI protected old centres of worship

2662. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the old centres of worship are being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) whether Government is aware that often concerned officials of the department create obstacles to measures adopted by owners/committees to provide better facilities to devotees; and

(c) whether Government will rationalise the procedures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Those monuments including old centres of worship, which fulfill the criteria as laid down in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, are declared protected by the Government and maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, permission from Central Government is required to be obtained before taking any modern work within protected limit of monument. However, the customary religious practices are allowed and no hindrance is caused.

(c) The Government has rationalized the procedures by notifying Competent Authorities and by establishing National Monuments Authority for considering permission for repairs and construction related activities in prohibited and regulated area of monuments.

Impact of illegal construction on foundations of Sonar Kella Fort

2663. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the illegal constructions and sewerage lines are weakening and eroding the foundations of the Sonar Kella Fort at Jaisalmer;