

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;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Archaeological Survey of India to provide stability to this monument; and

(c) the amount of money earmarked for conservation of the Sonar Kella Fort?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, such activities have caused damaging effects on different to structures including the Fort wall and bastions of Sonar Kella Fort at Jaisalmer. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has got various studies and investigations conducted for the stability of the fort, and accordingly taken up different conservation works. The amount earmarked for conservation of the fort for current financial year is Rs. 60.00 lakhs.

Preservation of monuments in Odisha

2664. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind preservation of less number of monuments in Odisha in comparison to other States of India; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of monuments of Odisha to be declared as Centrally Protected Monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The monuments and archaeological sites and remains are considered for declaration as of national importance as per Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. On the basis of surveys carried out in Odisha 78 monuments and archaeological sites have been declared as protected. Declaration of monuments as of national importance further is a continuous process and dependant upon fresh surveys, inspections and chance discoveries bringing to light new ones worthy of protection.

Performance of Tatra trucks

2665. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of Tatra trucks is outstanding *vis-a-vis* its objective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent so far for this vehicle?