

removed as per the provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 framed thereunder. Superintending Archaeologists are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment under section 19 (2) of the Act and Rule 38 (2). In order to contain the encroachments and removing them, the Superintending Archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Further, assistance in such cases is also sought from the respective State Government/Police and where there are no fruitful results actions are initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the court of law. Accordingly actions are taken on notice of illegal construction/encroachment.

In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments.

(b) There is no such proposal for using drones, to check construction, building or industrial activity in the vicinity of heritage sites and forts.

(c) As per the statutory provisions the Archaeological Survey of India is bound to approach the District Magistrate/Collector for removal of encroachments from protected monuments/area and unauthorised constructions in the prohibited and regulated areas. In few cases, Archaeological Survey of India approaches even the Courts for legal action against the persons who have encroached upon the protected monument/area or have indulged in construction activities in prohibited and regulated areas in violation of the AMASR Act, 1958 or Rules, 1959.

Documentation of Antiquities and Monuments under NMMA

3067. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has contracted out the documentation of antiquities and monuments to contractors and not the subject specialists under National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the documentation done by the contractors is far sub-standard to be uploaded in the official website of NMMA, despite release of crores of rupees without reasonable verification of work done in 2014-15 to 2016-17; and

(c) whether Government would stop further syphoning of funds to the contractors and get the entire matter examined by a Committee of independent subject specialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) gets the documentation of antiquities and monuments done by outsourcing through Documentation Resource Centres (DRCs) which comprise Universities, State Archaeological Departments, Endowment Boards, Research Institutes, Trusts, NGOs etc. These DRCs are identified by NMMA in association with State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC) constituted for the purpose in different States. The projects awarded to DRCs are monitored by SLICs, Finance Committee and Monitoring Committee. The DRCs get the documentation done in house or through outsourcing as the case may be.

(b) No, Sir. There is already in built mechanism for certification of data by subject experts before submission of data to NMMA. The data received in NMMA is further verified by the subject experts before release of funds and uploading of the documented data.

(c) The current system of documentation is satisfactory.

Promotion of folk artists and music for Chhattisgarh

†3068. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme currently being operated by Government to promote folk artists and folk music of Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the details of amount spent on these Schemes and number of beneficiaries therefrom during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) To promote folk artists and folk music throughout the country including Chhattisgarh, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis and folk artists from all over the country including Chhattisgarh are invited to participate in these festivals. The details of the annual grant-in-aid provided to these ZCCs during the last three years are as under:

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of ZCC	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	NZCC, Patiala	612.35	433.39	1412.50
2.	WZCC, Udaipur	429.35	652.39	885.15
3.	SZCC, Thanjavur	830.66	336.10	560.56

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.