

instead is that multiple regulatory authorities are jumping in and taking pre-emptive measures or, at least, urgent measures, but they may be legally questionable. This is another problem, and if these cases get stuck in litigation, then, who has access to those funds, who doesn't, etc., will become a real problem for the customers.

So, I urge upon the Government to work with the regulatory authorities to help fix these problems and to ensure that customers, investors and their interests are not hurt. To see that investor sentiment is revived once again is the need of the hour. Thank you, Sir.

Need to strengthen and restructure the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI (Nominated): Sir, I am raising an important subject related to the monuments maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The protected monuments and archaeological sites in the country, declared to be of national importance, are located not only in the cities but also in the villages and remote areas. With increase in awareness and rise in domestic and international tourism, there is a tremendous amount of pressure on these monuments and sites. Instances of encroachment, unauthorised construction in protected, prohibited and regulated areas, hawking, misuse, damage, theft have put their very existence at stake. Despite increased budgetary allocations in the last five years, the overall condition and facilities at the monuments have not improved due to lack of planning and day-to-day supervision and monitoring of works. The main reasons to be cited for the sorry state of affairs are: ill-planning, centralisation of administrative and financial powers, and most importantly, inadequate staff strength at the field level.

The Archaeological Survey of India has around 3,680 protected monuments and sites, whereas the sanctioned strength of staff, comprising of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' posts, is just 8,424. This situation truly explains that there are a large number of monuments which do not have even one attendant for normal watch and ward job. Their safety and security is, therefore, completely compromised. Adding further fuel to fire is the fact that out of the total sanctioned strength of staff, over 2,000 posts are still lying vacant.

The Archaeological Survey of India had submitted a proposal, on its strengthening and restructuring, in 2013-14 to the Government, which had even been accepted by the Department of Culture and in-principle nod was given by the Prime Minister's Office. Unfortunately, all the proposals are still pending.

Due to the shortage of staff, the archaeological and epigraphical field work and research has taken a back seat. Majority of the staff is engaged in pushing up the files with no positive productivity. The ASI has not been able to formulate a nation-wide agenda for archeological investigations and research, which they should be doing. Sensitive conservation/restoration works are being contracted out, which were essentially being done by the ASI till 2016-17. It is apprehended that the contractors may damage the original features of monuments while executing the works.

Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister of Culture to look into three-four points. One is to ensure that all the vacant posts are filled up within six months. Proposal on restructuring and strengthening of the ASI, pending since 2014, may be revived forthwith and implemented within six months. Special emphasis must be given on archaeological research and field work by way of explorations and excavations. Perspective plan for each of 3,680 monuments for conservation and development must be prepared for the next five years to make them presentable and promote tourism. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can see the notes, but you have to speak. Please send the slips for associations.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

कुमारी शैलजा (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती कान्ता कर्दम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

डा. अनिल अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

DR. SONAL MANSINGH (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

**Need to include tribals under Scheduled Tribes category in the
Union Territory of Puducherry**

SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN (Puducherry): Sir, I stand here to plead for the inclusion of the left-out four tribal communities, namely, Kattunayakan, Yerukula, Malakkuravan and Kurumans, under Article 342(2) of the Constitution, into the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Till 2016, the Centre had not permitted the inclusion of any communities as tribals, though there had been several clusters of tribals living in isolated pockets in Puducherry regions. As a result, they were not able to enjoy the benefit of reservation and other concessions available to these communities. Therefore, the Government of Puducherry has been pleading for a long time for inserting the Scheduled Tribes in the list of communities in Puducherry.

Sir, there is evidence from the diaries of the famous diarists, Ananda Rangapillai and Veera Naicker-II that the community of Kuravars was existing in Puducherry during the 18th Century itself.

In this connection, the Committee constituted by the Government of Puducherry, as per the guidelines of the Central Government, which analyzed the problem, has recommended the inclusion of five communities in the list. However,