

(b) whether changes made has affected the working of ASI since professionally trained candidates are not being inducted in ASI since 2006;

(c) if so, number of Assistant Archaeologist filled from amongst those having PGDA from IA, out of vacancies filled in the last five years; and

(d) the reasons for not restoring PGDA as essential qualification for the post of Assistant Archaeologists in ASI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology (PGDA) of Institute of Archaeology (IA) was only a desirable qualification and not essential for the post of Assistant Archaeologist in Archaeological Survey of India in the recruitment rules notified in 2006. The same has been excluded from the revised rules notified in September, 2019.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The total number of vacancies of Assistant Archaeologist filled up during the last 05 years is 76, out of which 08 candidates are having Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology (PGDA) from Institute of Archaeology (IA).

(d) In view of reply to Part (a) above, does not arise.

Vacancy of Monuments Attendants in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether watch and ward and day-to-day maintenance of monuments declared protected have been left upon to daily-wagers or contractual workers in Maharashtra because most of the regular posts are vacant;

(b) if so, the number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Monument Attendants/MTS for each of the protected monuments in Maharashtra, monument-wise;

(c) the reasons for keeping the posts vacant; and

(d) whether the strength of watch and ward staff is sufficient to ensure safety and security of protected monuments and if not, what action Government plans to take to strengthen watch and ward staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The watch and ward of the monuments is being looked after by Government agencies like CISF and private security agency. The maintenance of the monuments is being carried out by regular MTS and also by the outsourced agencies under supervision of ASI.

(b) There is no monument-wise MTS post sanctioned. However, the sanctioned strength and vacancy position of the Circle is given below:

Name of Circle	Present Sanctioned Strength	Post Vacant
Aurangabad Circle	155	57
Mumbai Circle	132	60
Nagpur Circle	95	51

(c) The posts remain vacant on account of superannuation, resignation etc. of MTS from time to time and the time taken by SSC for filling-up of the vacancies.

(d) The watch and ward services to ensure the safety and security of the protected monuments is available by deploying Government agencies like CISF and private security agencies as per requirement of the monuments.

Accessibility of monuments for Divyangjans

183. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines or regulations to make monuments more accessible for Divyangjans, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of monuments where lifts and elevators have been installed to increase accessibility for Divyangjans, if any; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (c) There are no specific guidelines framed by Archaeological Survey of India in this regard. However, efforts are taken to make monuments more accessible for Divyangjans. Wheel chairs, Braille Signages, ramps, etc. are provided at all World Heritage and Ticketed monuments in addition to those monuments where