

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1616
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

CONSERVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

1616 # SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO
BONDE:
SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific measures taken currently for the protection and conservation of archaeological sites of historical significance;
- (b) whether any new policies or laws are being proposed to strengthen the protection of archaeological sites, including the State of Odisha;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the funding and resources available for researchers and archaeologists working on conservation projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) looks after 3698 protected monuments and areas in the country. Their conservation, preservation and maintenance is carried out by ASI as per requirement, priority and availability of resources, which is a regular phenomenon. Inspection of monuments and sites is taken up by ASI's officials/officers from time to time to assess their condition and annual works programme is drawn for conservation and maintenance accordingly. To secure protected monuments and sites, boundary walls, fencing etc. are provided as per need and feasibility. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected protected monuments and protected areas across the country.
- (b) Mechanism for protection of monuments and archaeological sites is already in place. Section & 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 provides for
- (c) declaring any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains as of national importance. Further, the conservation and preservation of protected monuments and protected areas are taken up following National Conservation Policy, 2014.
- (d) ASI does not maintain any separate budget head for researches in the field of conservation. The conservation and maintenance of monuments under the jurisdiction of ASI is carried out by the budget allocated by the Government. However, ASI seeks special assistance from specialized agencies like CBRI, IIT etc. as and when required for any conservation related challenges.
