

118

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 39th Report (16th Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2018-19)**

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH REPORT

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH REPORT

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (2018-19)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS AND ANTIQUITIES

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 39th Report (16th Lok Sabha)]

MINISTRY OF CULTURE



Presented to Lok Sabha on:

Laid in Rajya Sabha on:

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2018 /Agrahayana, 1940 (Saka)

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*Not appended to the cyclostyled copy of the Report

**COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(2018-19)**

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge - Chairperson	
	MEMBERS <u>LOK SABHA</u>
2.	Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3.	Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4.	Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
5.	Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
6.	Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
7.	Smt. Riti Pathak
8.	Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank"
9.	Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
10.	Shri Abhishek Singh
11.	Shri Gopal Shetty
12.	Dr. Kirit Somaiya
13.	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
14.	Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi
15.	Dr. Ponnusamy Venugopal
	<u>R A J Y A S A B H A</u>
16.	Prof. M. V. Rajeev Gowda
17.	Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
18.	Shri Shwait Malik
19.	Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya
20.	Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
21.	Shri C.M. Ramesh
22.	Shri Bhupender Yadav
	SECRETARIAT
1.	Shri A.K. Singh - Additional Secretary
2.	Shri Sanjeev Sharma - Director
3.	Shri Paolienlal Haokip- Additional Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee (2018-19), having been authorised by the Committee, do present this One Hundred and Eighteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "**Preservation and conservation of Monuments and Antiquities**" based on the C&AG Report No. 18 of 2013 relating to Ministry of Culture.

2. The Thirty-ninth Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2016. Replies of the Government to all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report were received. The Public Accounts Committee considered and adopted the One Hundred and Eighteenth Report at their sitting held on 5th December, 2018. Minutes of the sitting are given at Appendix I.
3. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.
4. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the matter by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
5. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) is given at *Appendix*.

NEW DELHI;
December, 2018
Agrahayana, 1940 (Saka)

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Chairperson,
Public Accounts Committee

CHAPTER – I

R E P O R T

This Report of the Public Accounts Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject **“Preservation and Conservation of Monuments and Antiquities”** based on the C&AG Report No. 18 of 2013 relating to the Ministry of Culture.

2. The Thirty-ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha), which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2016 contained 25 Observations and Recommendations. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations and Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Culture and are broadly categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Paragraph Nos. 1-5, 10-14, 16-25

Total: 20
Chapter - II

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies received from the Government:

Paragraph No. 15

Total: 1
Chapter - III

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Paragraph No. 6-9

Total: 4
Chapter - IV

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies:

Nil

Total: 0
Chapter – V

3. The Action Taken Notes furnished by the Ministry of Culture in respect of all Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been reproduced in the relevant Chapters of this Report. The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations made in the Original Report which either need reiteration or merit comments.

4. Before dwelling on the Action Taken Replies furnished by the Ministry, it is pertinent to bring out the issue of delay in furnishing of the Action Taken Replies to the Committee. The original Report on the Subject was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2016. The Action Taken Replies on the Report were required to be furnished within six months, i.e., by 25.10.2016. Contrary to the stipulated date, the ATRs were received in the Secretariat on 30th August, 2018.

5. **The Committee are appalled to note the tepid response of the Ministry in furnishing the Action Taken Replies. It goes without saying that such a delay of almost two years has hampered not only the work of the Committee but also it is evident that delay without any justified reason is against the principles of the Committee system as well as that of Parliamentary oversight on the Executive through this Financial Committee. At this stage, they can only recommend that due care should be taken in future while furnishing the Action Taken Replies. They, in no uncertain words, recommend that they be apprised of the reasons of this delay and also some kind of responsibility be fixed for indulging in such acts of procrastination on the part of erring officials. At least now, the Committee feel that the Ministry will take this recommendation of the Committee seriously and furnish the Final Action Taken Statements within six months of the presentation of this Report in Parliament.**

6. Further the Committee are of the firm opinion that Ministry have shown gross laxity in implementation of some of the recommendations as action on them are stated to be under process even after two and a half years since the presentation of the original Report. These instances are specifically brought out in the succeeding paragraphs of this Report.

II. **Shortage of Manpower and Restructuring**

(Recommendation Para No. 6)

7. The Committee had noted with grave concern the severe shortage of manpower in the ASI and taken strong exception to some posts being left vacant for years together without even any ad-hoc arrangements. They had been apprised of an ongoing cadre restructuring process which had been submitted to the Ministry of Finance for financial approval. Taking into account the debilitating handicap faced by ASI in fulfilling its primary functions due to the acute shortage of manpower, and taking cognizance of a proper restructuring of the organization being essential to overcome its deficient functioning in the important mandate to preserve our cultural heritage, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Culture should pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance for early clearance of the restructuring proposal and finalize the same at the earliest to overcome the shortage of manpower at the earliest under intimation to the Committee and also to ensure adequate financial allocation for Archaeological Survey of India to help and strengthen future archaeological survey, excavations and proper maintenance of ancient monuments in archaeological sites and remains.

8. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“The proposal for cadre restructuring of ASI has been revised in the light of discussions with the officers concerned in the Ministry of Finance and has been submitted to Ministry of Culture for submission to Ministry of Finance. However, the Department has also continued its efforts to get the vacancies filled up as expeditiously as possible and in the last 2 years, 364 vacancies were got filled up, in addition to the same the Staff Selection Committee (SSC) has further recommended names of 8 candidates for the post of Assistant Archaeologist, 15 candidates for the post of Stenographer for appointment in ASI on Direct Recruitment basis. The SSC has also recommended the names of 33 no. of candidates against the vacant post of MTS under the Physically Handicapped (PH) category. The SSC is also in the advanced stage for conducting examination for the remaining 1314 no. of vacant post of MTS on Direct Recruitment basis.”

9. Audit in their vetting comments stated as under:-

“Final outcome of the cadre restructuring of ASI may be appraised to PAC”.

10. The Ministry, in their Final Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“The proposal for cadre restructuring of ASI in line with the suggestions made by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure was submitted for further consideration of Ministry of Culture in March, 2017. However, the proposal has been received back with the direction to re-submit the proposal in line with the instructions issued by Ministry of Finance vide their O.M. dated 12.04.2017. The revised proposal in accordance with the said instructions will be submitted shortly to Ministry of Culture.”

11. **The Committee note that the proposal for cadre restructuring of ASI was submitted to the Ministry of Culture in March 2017, and received back with direction to re-submit the same in line with the instructions issued by Ministry of Finance vide OM dated 12.04.17. The response of the Ministry is not acceptable to the Committee as, again they feel that the Ministry is not serious enough in cadre restructuring of ASI. It is evident from lackadaisical attitude of the Ministry that even after an elapse of 16 months, the revised proposal in accordance with the Ministry of Finance O.M. has not yet been submitted by the Ministry of Culture. What can be more disturbing than the fact that this hiatus of time is being taken by the Ministry for just finalizing a revised proposal. They, therefore, recommend that ASI expedite the submission of revised proposal in accordance with instructions and further recommend that the Ministry of Culture, upon receipt of the revised proposal, expedite the process for final implementation of the restructuring within ASI to facilitate the organization to meet its challenges and expectations efficiently. Such a proposal be finalized forthwith and not later than one month after the presentation of this Report and that too under intimation to the Committee.**

III. Filling current vacancies

(Recommendation Para No. 7)

12. The Committee had been apprised that the restructuring exercise was aimed at strengthening all wings of ASI. As far as encadered posts are concerned, there were existing vacancies in the organization which need to be filled. The Committee had observed that the Ministry had opted to outsource jobs that are not directly related to the

spheres of archaeology, conservation and excavation, while also entering into MoUs with institutions and Universities for sharing professionals on deputation and training basis to meet current shortage in technical manpower. The Committee, however, had noted with great concern that the Ministry had not been able to fill the vacancies as pointed out by audit in a report laid in 2013. While deprecating this lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Ministry, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to fill all vacant posts in ASI and a compliance report be submitted to the Committee within six months of this report being laid on the table of the House of Parliament.

13. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“The details of sanctioned and filled up posts in ASI as on 15.2.2017 and the number of vacancies filled up in the last 2 years through concerted efforts taken in this regard is indicated below:

S.No.	Classification of posts	Sanctioned Strength	Filled	Vacant Post
1	Group 'A'	233	183	50
2	Group 'B'	875	609	266
3	Group 'C'	1164	819	345
4	MTS	6152	3899	2253
	Total	8424	5510	2914

Cadre-wise number of posts filled in the last 2 years: (All Groups, excluding MTS)

Archaeology	93
Conservation	63
Others	208
Total	364

The Department has continued its efforts to get the vacancies filled up as expeditiously as possible. In addition to the details of vacancies filled up given as

above, the Staff Selection Committee (SSC) has further recommended names of 8 candidates for the post of Assistant Archaeologist, 15 candidates for the post of Stenographer for appointment in ASI on Direct Recruitment basis. The SSC has also recommended the names of 33 no. of candidates against the vacant post of MTS under the Physically Handicapped (PH) category. The SSC is also in the advanced stage for conducting examination for the remaining 1314 no. of vacant post of MTS on Direct Recruitment basis. ASI is constantly pursuing the matter with the UPSC/SSC for filling up the vacancies.”

14. Audit in their vetted comments stated as under:-

“Efforts of the Ministry for signing of MoUs with Institutions and Universities for sharing professionals on deputation and training basis to meet current shortage in technical manpower in ASI may be apprised to PAC.”

15. The Ministry in their Final Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“The vacant posts in ASI are filled up in accordance with the recruitment rules in respect of each post. As ASI has been facing difficulties in attracting suitable candidates for the technical posts, the recruitment rules of some of these posts have been framed keeping the method of deputation in case of failure of the first method of direct recruitment or promotion, as the case may be. The field of selection of candidates for deputation has been kept wide open from officers under Central or State Government or Union Territories or Universities or recognized Research Institutions / Semi-govt. statutory and autonomous organizations. Two officers have been appointed on deputation basis in the Conservation Branch of ASI. However, even after circulating the vacancies of Jt.DG(Arch.) twice, there has been not much response. ASI has not been able to attract candidates from universities where officers with appropriate qualification and appropriate service are available for the reasons that the pay structures available in the universities are higher than what is available under the Central Govt.”

16. The Committee are not happy to note the position in regard to filling up of vacancies on a few major grounds. Before analyzing them, the Committee, here, would like to state that the staff strength which has been conveyed to them is as old as 18 months. It is disconcerting to note that the concrete developments since 15.02.2017 have not been intimated to the Committee. Although the posts have been filled in ASI, nevertheless it is evident vacant posts in all Groups are as high as 34.6%. The emphasis seems to be more in filling up of the posts of MTS rather than in the technical side. The backbone of the work of ASI lies in their technical cadre. The Committee also find that the Ministry has taken note of

the fact that the pay structure in the Universities is higher than what is available under the Central Government. They, therefore, recommend that all-out efforts may be made by the Ministry by raising the bar of salaries to attract technical manpower which would enable them to fill up the vacancies of technical side. The matter be pursued at the highest level; otherwise the very purpose of existence of ASI would be defeated. More emphasis should be given to the recruitment of technical experts rather than auxiliary manpower. Then only, the full potential and service delivery of ASI would come into light.

IV. National Monument Authority

(Recommendation Para No. 8)

17. The Committee had noted that pursuant to Audit comments on the delays in establishment of NMA and appointments of members therein, the Ministry had taken steps to expedite the entire matter. The Committee had felt that it was desirable for authorities to pursue their tasks earnestly without awaiting Audit's comments and desired that the Ministry evolve an internal mechanism to set targets and monitor timelines for its various agencies and units in consultation with units concerned. The committee had urged the Ministry evolve proper systems to fill vacancies in important position in a time bound manner

18. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

"The National monuments Authority (NMA) came into existence in 2011 as a statutory body, Constituted under provision of AMASR Act, 2010. It consists of a Chairperson, 05 Whole Time Members, 05 Part Time Members, with a fixed tenure of 3 years, and a Member Secretary. The first Chairperson Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray was appointed on 31st Aug. 2012 and she demitted her office on 31st Aug, 2015. Dr. Susmita Pande has been appointed w.e.f. 18.4.2016. Initially, out of 05 sanctioned posts of Whole Time Member, only one was filled w.e.f. 21.11.2011 by Ms. Meena Ishwar Dass till 20.11.2014. Thereafter, Mohd. Saleem Beg was appointed as Whole Time Member on 05.11.2013 who demitted office on 04.11.2016. At present, three posts of Whole Time Member are filled by Sh. Arya Bhushan Shukla, Sh. Uma Kant Sadhav and Sh. Satish Kumar who joined on 29.03.2016, 01.06.2016 and 15.07.2016, respectively. Further, out of the 05 posts of Part Time Member, two posts were filled by Mrs. Rima Hooja and Mrs. Sanghamitra from 23.11.2011 till 22.11.2014, then Ms. Shalini Mahajan and Shri Bharat Bhushan were appointed w.e.f

30.10.2013 and Dr. Pukhraj Maroo on 06.01.2014. At present two posts of Whole Time Member and 05 posts of Part Time Member are vacant. Process has already been initiated to fill these posts.”

19. Audit in their vetting comments stated as under:-

“The Committee recommended that Ministry evolve an internal mechanism to set targets and monitor timelines for its various agencies and units in consultation with units concerned. Efforts in this regard may be apprised to PAC.

20. The Ministry in their Final Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“Action has already been initiated by the National Monuments Authority to fill 2 posts of Whole Time Member and 5 posts of Part Time Member. In this regard the posts were advertised in the leading national newspapers on 10.1.2018 for which the last date to submit the application was 9.2.2018. The Hon’ble Culture Minister formed a Selection Committee on 20.4.2018 as per the AMASR Act. A complete set of applications were sent to the Ministry of Culture on 1.5.2018 and a preliminary meeting of Experts was held on 9.5.2018. The Ministry of Culture has sent a letter on 14.5.2018 to the Cabinet Secretariat requesting the Cabinet Secretary, being the Chairman of the Selection Committee, to hold a meeting for selection of Whole Time Members and Part Time Members of National Monuments Authority. The Ministry has also sent a reminder to the Cabinet Secretariat on 12.6.2018.”

21. The Committee are distraught to note that while the Ministry have already claimed to have expedited the establishment of NMA and appointment of members therein during evidence before the Committee, there still remains two vacant posts of Whole Time Members and five of Part Time Members in the NMA since the last three years. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry may furnish a detailed explanation for such an inordinate delay, and a note explaining *inter alia* as to why such a lapse should not be construed as misleading to Parliamentary Committee. They also recommend that the remaining vacant positions may be expeditiously filled by convening the Selection Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary at the earliest, and in no case later than two months from the presentation of this Report to Parliament. The Committee in no uncertain words reiterate their earlier recommendation for the Ministry to evolve

an internal mechanism to set targets and monitor timelines for its various agencies and units.

V. Security and Safeguard arrangements

(Recommendation Para No. 9)

22. The Committee had observed that there were huge gaps in the management of security and safeguard around important monuments and museums 'arising out of lack' of proper attention. They had noted with concern the lack of effective monitoring in removing of encroachments and absence of any coordinated effort to check unauthorized constructions within conservation areas. The Committee, however, had noted with appreciation that the Ministry had formed a Committee to suggest security measures at monuments to strengthen protection of monuments from possible damage, loss or destruction through terror attacks and weak monitoring of visitors, etc. The Committee had recommended that the ASI should constitute a 'coordination mechanism' with representatives of respective State Governments at each Circle to check the incidents of encroachments with the cooperation of District and Police authorities and there should be regular monitoring of progress on existing encroachments. While they felt that efforts should have been made by the Ministry to strengthen the manpower for security, the Committee also had felt that the ASI lagged behind in leveraging the advances in IT for enhancing security of the monuments. They, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should develop a comprehensive security policy for all monuments and museums under its control by addressing the shortage of security personnel and at the same time exploring the possibility of taking the help of ISRO for aerial survey and installation of satellite cameras and other agencies like Electronics and IT department for IT-based security modules. They also desired that the Ministry should apprise this Committee of the status of implementation of recommendations of the Committee on Security. The Committee had further recommended that all monuments, archaeological sites maintained by A.S.I. must have Clean and Modern toilets, Eateries, Medical Shops and other urgent conveniences in

and around their precincts and also accessible motorable roads to the benefit of both domestic and foreign tourist.

23. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

"The security and watch and ward at monument is being provided through regular monument attendants, private security guards and CISF guards. Further, ASI has moved a proposal for increasing number of private security guards. A policy on security & safety of museums has already been prepared by the Ministry of Culture in 2016. Steps are being taken for formation of State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) involving representative of State Governments for removal of encroachments. A few States i.e. Assam, Rajasthan, J&K, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry (UT), Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and Meghalaya have already been responded in this regard. So far as use of ISRO maps or satellite camera for security may not be advantage for security purpose. However, Geo maps are being prepared with the help of ISRO indicating prohibited, protected and regulated areas of centrally protected monuments for grant of permission and to monitor constructions related activities in the area. ASI has identified 100 monuments as Adarsh monuments for upgrading existing amenities (drinking water & toilets) and providing additional facilities like cafeteria, cloak room, Wi-Fi, interpretation center, Braille signages, facilities for differently abled, ramps, etc. Further, the facility of cafeteria is also being provided at important tourist visited monuments. The cafeteria at Red Fort, Delhi, Old Fort and Safdarjung Tomb to be started soon as all the formalities have been completed in this regard. ASI has outsourced the work of construction of toilets at important monuments and highly visited monuments to WAPCOS and TCIL who are Government undertakings. Necessary funds for such work have already been released to these two firms.

24. Audit in their vetting comments stated as under:-

"The Ministry stated that steps are being taken for formation of State Level Co-ordination Committee (SLCC) involving representative of State Governments for removal of encroachments. As the SLCC has not been formed yet, final results in this regard may be apprised to PAC."

25. The Ministry in their Final Action Taken Note have stated as under:

"Steps are still underway in forming the State Level Coordination Committees (SLCC) for removal of encroachments. On assessing the ground realities, multi-level check mechanism has been evolved for monitoring the encroachment activities, in the form of security guards, monument attendants, and CISF in a few cases. The Court of Laws are also approached for checking the encroachment and in a few cases, they have been removed after specific court orders."

26. The Committee are highly disappointed to note that State Level Coordination Committees for removal of encroachments upon monuments are yet to be set up even after a lapse of three years. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry to furnish details of actions initiated/taken so far for setting up the SLCCs, including copies of communications sent to state governments, meetings held on the subject, etc. They also reiterate their earlier recommendation for expeditious setting up of State Level Coordinating Committees at the earliest without any further loss of time and that too under intimation to the Committee.

VI. Revenue Generation

(Recommendation Para No. 12)

27. The Committee were dismayed to note that there was no structured system of determining whether protected Monuments are to be placed under ticketed Monuments category or not. They had also noted that the Ministry was dithering on the issue of increasing the rates for film shooting, which has not been revised since 1991. During deliberations, the Committee also dwelt on other possible avenues of Revenue generation including renting out premises of well-known monuments like Red Fort, Taj Mahal, and Victoria Memorial Hall for premium social and family events. The Committee had recommended that a structured system for categorization of Monuments as ticketed or non-ticketed must be developed and a comprehensive review carried out to bring more monuments in the ticketed category. Further, the rates of entry tickets should be reviewed and suitably revised upwards at par with the rates at Monuments in other countries. The Committee had also recommended that rates for film and documentary shoots in premises of monuments must also be appropriately revised upwards and promotional short films can be produced by ASI separately in coordination with the Tourism Ministry. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry/ASI should seriously explore enhancing revenue generation through premium renting of well-known sites for social and family events with proper guidelines.

28. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have stated as under:

“The entry fee at protected monuments is imposed as per provision of Rule 6 of AMASR Rules, 1959. While imposing entry fee at any monument a notification

has to be published. ASI has imposed entry fee by the way of notification and publishing the list in Gazette of India. The list of ticketed monuments is already available on ASI website. Further the 'Must See' portal of ASI specifies the monument is ticketed or not. The rates of entry fee and filming at centrally protected monuments have been revised from 1.4.2016. So far as imposing entry fee at few more monuments is concerned, the same shall be taken up after assessment on ground and report from field office. So far as steps for revenue generation are concerned, ASI has already enhanced entry fee at ticketed monuments and action is being taken up for bringing new monuments under ticket category. Renting of well-known heritage monuments for social and family events would not be a suitable step in the interest of monuments just for revenue generation. The position of revised entry fee is as under:

Category of Visitor monument		Entry fee (per head)	
		Before 1.4.2016	After 1.4.2016
World Heritage Monuments	Citizen of India and Visitor from SAARC & BIMSTEC countries and Overseas Citizens of India	Rs 10/-	Rs 30/-
	Other foreigners	Rs 250/-	Rs 500/-
Other Ticketed Monuments	Citizen of India and Visitor from SAARC & BIMSTEC countries and Overseas Citizens of India	Rs 5/-	Rs 15/-
	Other foreigners	Rs 100/-	Rs 200/-

Further, fee for filming of centrally protected monuments has been increased from Rs 5000/- per day (for all types of monuments) to Rs.1, 00,000/- for World Heritage Monuments and Rs 50,000/- per day for other monuments. Rs.50, 000/- per day with Rs.10, 000/- refundable security deposit. The revenue generated for entry fee for the year 2015-16 was Rs. 93.72 Crore and up to 31st December, 2017 was Rs.166.14. Crore”

29. The Committee note with satisfaction that the ambiguity on whether a monument is ticketed or not has been dispelled by issuance of a notification by the ASI and the fees for film shoots have been revised as per their recommendation. They are, however, constrained to note that steps to bring in more monuments under ticketed category have still not been taken.

Further, the committee also note their recommendation for the Ministry/ASI to explore enhancing revenue generation through premium renting of well-known sites for social and family events with proper guidelines has not been brooded upon with seriousness. The Ministry have stated that ‘renting of well-known heritage monuments for social and family events would not be suitable in the interest of monuments just for revenue generation.’ The Committee had deliberated the issue in-depth and considered and opined that certain areas of some well-known monuments like the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial hall, etc. could very well be earmarked and rented out for events like marriages, plays and musicals at premium rates without hurting the monuments by developing strict guidelines and close supervision. They, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and desire that the Ministry/ASI form an expert group to examine the feasibility of not only generating revenue, but bringing such monuments into the limelight. If ASI is not in favour of renting heritage monuments for social and family events, then possibilities be explored if such events can be held in the backdrop of those monuments. For instance, in 1990s, the Music Concert of one Greek composer was held in the backdrop of Taj Mahal on the river bed between river Yamuna and Taj precincts which brought international fame to the monument.

On the issue of ticketing, the committee recommend that apart from online ticketing of monuments, the ASI should also consider offering a single pass allowing entry to all monuments within a city at attractive bunch rates for the convenience of tourists and facilitating more footfalls in each of the monuments. Also, the Committee would like to recommend that parallels should be drawn with other developed countries where a single pass entry ticket is invariably used for all forms of public transport too, such as Hop-on-hop-off busses, metros, city bus services, ropeways, waterways transport, etc. For the ease of convenience of the visitors, probability should be worked out if these entry tickets are available at airports, railway stations, metro stations and in the city bus services, category hotels, apart from all Regional Tourist Offices.

NEW DELHI;
17th December, 2018
27 Agrahayana, 1940 (Saka)

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Chairperson,
Public Accounts Committee.

APPENDIX-II
(Vide Paragraph 5 of Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
 OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
 CONTAINED IN THEIR THIRTY- NINTH REPORT
 (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

(i) Total number of Observations/Recommendations	25
(ii) Observations/Recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted by the Government:	Total : 20 Percentage: 80%
Para Nos. 1-5, 10-14, 16 -25	
(iii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the reply of the Government:	Total : 4 Percentage:4%
Para Nos. 15	
(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:	Total : 4 Percentage:16%
Para Nos. 6-9	
(v) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Government have furnished interim replies:	Total : Nil Percentage: 0
Para Nos. - Nil	