

[29th February, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

Norms for the nomination of Nobel Prize and Coveted Award

491. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sahitya Akademi acts as the agency for processing the proposals and nominations for the Nobel Prize for literature from India;

(b) if so, what are the norms followed for identifying the nominees for the Award; and

(c) whether Government will furnish the names of eminent writers of Indian languages proposed by the Sahitya Akademi during the last three years for the Coveted Award?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):
(a) and (b) Whenever the Swedish Academy invites recommendations from the Sahitya Akademi, the letter of invitation is circulated among the members of the Executive Board representing the twenty-two languages recognised by it. The names received from the members are collated and placed before the President of the Sahitya Akademi who makes a final choice. The names chosen by the President are sent to the Swedish Academy as Sahitya Akademi's recommendations.

(c) There were no nomination in the year 1997 and 1998. In 1999 the name of Shri R.K. Narayan was suggested.

Reconstitution of the Board of Trustees of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art

492. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reconstituted the Board of Trustees of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for reconstituting the above Board of Trustees; and

(c) who are the members of the reconstituted Board of Trustees?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, the Government of India *vide* its order dated 7th January, 2000 had nominated 15 members to the IGNCA Trust.

(b) In 1995 certain amendments were purported to be made to the original deed of trust of the IGNCA *vide* a resolution of the Trustees dated 18th May, 1995 which *inter-alia* recast the structure of the Trust. A writ petition was filed in the Delhi High Court challenging *inter-alia* the legality and validity of the amendments made to the Deed of Trust on 18th May, 1995. The High Court had by an order clarified that it would be open to the Government to take such action as is permissible in law. The Government had been given legal advice that these amendments are ultra vires *inter-alia* for the reason that they change the basic character of the trust, and thus being null and void and non-est, are liable to be ignored. In accordance with the Deed of Declaration of Trust on expiry of each period of ten years, a total of 2/3rd of Trustees were liable to retire. The names of those trustees to retire were to be determined by lots, in default of and subject to any agreement among themselves. The names of 12 out of the 19 Trustees who were in office in March, 1997 and who would so retire was required to be determined by the Trustees as mentioned above, but the Trustees failed to do so. The Government on the basis of further legal advice, in exercise of the powers vested upon it under the unamended Deed of Trust as well as its general powers retired 12 Trustees as explained above. Further, three persons were nominated to fill vacancies of three trustees who had earlier resigned or passed away.

(c) The list of the IGNCA Trustees are enclosed as statement.

Statement

1. Shri R. Venkataraman
2. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi
3. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao
4. Shri Abid Hussain
5. Prof. Yash Pal
6. Pt. Bhimsen Joshi
7. Shri Vidya Niwas Mishra
8. Dr. H. Narasimhaiah

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9. Shri M.V. Kamath
10. Shri Bhupen Hazarika
11. Ms. Anjolie Ela Menon
12. Ms. Sonal Man Singh
13. Ms. Aparna Sen
14. Dr. K.J. Yesudas
15. Union Minister for Culture (ex-officio)
16. Union Minister of Urban Development (ex-officio)
17. Shri L.M. Singhvi
18. Shri M.S. Swaminathan
19. Shri Vedantham Sathyanarayana Sharma

Condition of Hampi Group of Monuments

493. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO have declared the Hampi Group of monuments in Karnataka as heritage site and suggested early care and attention;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):
(a) and (b) The World Heritage site of Hampi has been declared an endangered site by the UNESCO in view of the certain construction activities undertaken at the site.

(c) The Government of Karnataka on the advice of Government of India has set up a high level Task Force for the preservation and maintenance of Hampi monuments.

Green Channel Clearance for Importers and Exporters

494. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing any green channel clearances for importers and exporters whose clearances are more than Rupees one crore per year at ICD, PPG, Delhi; and