

Damage caused to Sun Temple by cyclone

419. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the apprehension expressed by the archaeological experts about the damage that may have been caused to the Sun Temple at Konark by the killer cyclone that struck coastal areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to assess the extent of damage and to initiate measures to repair the damage and protect this great piece of architecture, the Sun Temple; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to restore the plantations that were grown around the temple, to counter corrosive effect of the wind coming from the sea?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, but no damage has been caused to the structure of the Sun Temple, Konark.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated action to restore the garden within the protected area of the Sun Temple, Konark. The plantation outside the monument are to be restored by the State Government; however no time-frame can be specified in this regard.

National Culture Policy

†420. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Culture Policy during the last fifty years; if so, when and the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether present Government propose to formulate any cultural policy for India; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Though attempts to formulate a comprehensive National Culture Policy were made in the past, no finality could be arrived at. However, the Government is contemplating to evolve a national cultural policy. No time limit can be specified at this point of time.

Sai's Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati

421. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) in which year Government had taken up the scheme of construction of the Regional Sub-Centre of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) at Guwahati;

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(b) what is the progress of the work as on 1st November, 1999;

(c) when this work would be completed; and

(d) whether Government would up-grade the Regional Sub-Centre of SAI at Guwahati to a full-fledged Regional Centre; considering the importance of Guwahati in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The decision to set up a Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati was taken in December, 1987 and the same was established in 1988.

(b) and (c) While the work has been completed, additional sports infrastructure has been created, from time to time, to promote sports in the Region.

(d) There is, at present, no proposal to up-grade the Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati.

Policy to Give Priority to Sports

†422. **SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT:** Will the Minister of CULTURE YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are formulating a policy to give priority to sports, on the line of the countries of the world with small population;

(b) if so, what has been the budget provision for the last three years alongwith the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for the development of Prithviraj Chauhan Khel Nagar, Ajmer; if so, what action was taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A new National Sports Policy is being formulated.

(b) The budget provision earmarked during the last three years are as under:

Year	Rupees in crores	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1996-97	55.50	17.25
1997-98	75.66	1035
1998-99	100.66	9.72

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