

(ii) It was decided that more thought could be given on setting up of All India National Council of Culture as principal agency for grants to cultural organisations and individuals.

(iii) There was a general agreement that the encouragement of voluntary organisations in the field of culture should not be confined to the cities, but should also be taken right down to the grass roots through the Panchayat system.

(iv) Several States appealed for restoration of Centrally-sponsored Schemes in the field of culture.

(v) Considerable emphasis was laid on the literary movement as an adjunct to the National Literacy Mission.

(vi) It was emphasised that without increasing the load on the child, aspects of culture could be woven into the text books being produced by NCERT.

(vii) It was recommended that a Branch Laboratory of NRIC, Lucknow be set up at Manikpur and a branch of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

(viii) It was felt that many aspects of cultural activities are under different Departments of States and they need be brought under one Umbrella.

Maintenance of religious places

322. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-
RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy/guidelines have been laid about the nature and extent of state regulation with regard to maintenance of religious places of high-cultural and historical value like the Bodh-Gaya,

Vaishno Devi, Historical Gurudwaras, and Mosques; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The places of high cultural and historical value surviving in the form of centrally protected monuments and remains are maintained as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and prescribed norms of preservation. With regards to Bodhgaya (Mahabodhi Temple) and Shrine of Vaishno Devi and other religious buildings which are not under central protection, are looked after either by the State Governments or Private Bodies.

Development of Dravidian languages

323. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a centre for the development on Dravidian languages at Kuppam in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A proposal for the establishment of a society for the Indian Institute of Dravidian Studies at Kuppam in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh has been received from Shri B. Ram Chandra Rao. Since commitment of the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala to support the proposal was *inter alia* reported, the comments/views of the State Governments have been sought, which are still awaited.

(c) Question does not arise.