

(b) the measures taken by the Central and State Governments for their protection and conservation;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the progress achieved in protecting them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protects and maintains 3675 monuments/sites declared as of national importance, spread over in different parts of the country including rural and backward regions.

(b) Conservation, preservation, maintenance, Development of environs and creating tourist related amenities at the centrally protected monuments/sites are regular activities. They are undertaken by the ASI as per the need and sub etc. to availability of resources.

(c) The expenditure incurred on conservation/preservation and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in the country during the last three years and the allocation for the current year, is as under:

Year	Rs. in Lakhs
2007-08	Rs. 12886.19
2008-09	Rs. 13498.60
2009-10	Rs. 15300.43
2010-11 (Allocation)	Rs. 12025.00

(d) All the monuments/sites declared as of national importance are conserved, preserved and maintained by way of structural repair on need basis as per archaeological norms and these are fairly in good state of preservation.

#### **Cultural policy**

1214. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether country has a well-defined comprehensive cultural policy of its own;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not preparing one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Various aspects of culture, such as the protection of monuments and historic sites of national importance are enshrined in the Constitution as a Directive Principle of State Policy. The Constitution also enjoins upon every citizen, a Fundamental Duty to value

and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. It is also the mandate of several authorities; both at central and State level, to undertake measures to protect, promote and conserve all aspects related to culture. Attempts have been made from time to time to formulate a policy for culture, the most recent being a National Committee set up in 2006 for this. After several deliberations, the Committee was not able to arrive at a consensus on the matter.

#### **Museums at district level**

1215. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed to establish more museums at district level and regional levels to take museum movements to the people in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the museum concept is proposed to be redefined to keep pace with the evolving social changes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of districts/regions where this new concept is proposed to be implemented in the country including Gujarat and in the districts of Mehsana, Bharuch, Rajkot, Surat and Amreli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (e) A Scheme for "Financial Assistance for Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums" is operated by Ministry of Culture under which assistance is provided for modernization and upgradation of existing Museum and for setting up of new Museums at the regional, State and local levels. The Scheme is open to whole of India.

The Scheme was revised in 2008 in order to further promote the museum movement in the country and to make the museum more relevant to social and technological milieu, in the order for them to be able to compete with the best in the world.

Applications received under the scheme are placed before an Expert Committee for consideration. The details of the scheme are available in the ministry's "www.indiaculture.nic.in."

#### **Memorial for Shaheed Bhagat Singh**

1216. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a project to set up a memorial for Shaheed Bhagat Singh, at his native place has been sanctioned; and
- (b) if so, the status of the project?