

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) There are seventeen monuments under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India in Gaur, District Malda in West Bengal. As on date, there is no definite evidence of damage from air pollution due to the movement of vehicular traffic.

Protection of ancient manuscripts from decay

1574. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arthashastra manuscript of the 4th Century BC work discovered by renowned Indologist Rudrapatnam Shamashastry has been lying in a state of danger at Oriental Research Institute at Mysore;

(b) whether it is a fact that 60,000 manuscripts have not been secured in fireproof chambers and a fumigation machine donated by the Ford Foundation to protect manuscripts from insects, algae and fungi, is not working; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir. It has been reported by the Government of Karnataka, Kannada, Culture and Information Department that the Kautilya Arthashastra manuscripts of the 4th Century BC discovered by the renowned Indologist Rudrapatnam Shamashastry, preserved in Oriental Research Institute (ORI), University of Mysore, Mysore, are in good condition.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka, Kannada, Culture and Information Department has further stated that the manuscripts in Oriental Research Institute (ORI), University of Mysore, Mysore have been protected from insects, algae, fungi, etc. and are in good condition. The fire proof chambers and fumigation machine donated by the Ford Foundation are reported to be used for proper protection of manuscripts housed in ORI.

Rebuilding of graves of classical poets in Kashmir

1575. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the graves of masters and writers/poets of great calibre in Kashmir are either dilapidated or non-existent; and

(b) whether the Ministry would devise a scheme to identify these classical poets/ writers and rebuilt their graves and seek inspiration of the present day generation of students?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. So far as the Archaeological Survey of India is concerned it conserves, preserves and maintains only those monuments/sites which have been declared as of national importance in the country under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.