

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Culture has instituted a scheme of National Professorships in the field of Epigraphy to honour distinguished academics, practitioners and scholars in the field of Epigraphy and to contribute by bequeathing their expertise and knowledge to the coming generations of scholars. This is essential to promote studies in Epigraphy.

(c) and (d) The meeting of National Expert Committee (NEC) for Selection of five National Professors in Epigraphy, was held on 24.08.2011 and the Committee has recommended names of five scholars for consideration for appointment as National Professors in Epigraphy in ASI. Hon'ble Minister of Culture has approved the names. Willingness of these scholars for the post in question is being obtained. Those who are willing to join the post, will be invited for a personal talk/discussion with the NEC.

Proposals for setting up Art Faculty in M.P.

†3134. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government to the Ministry for the establishment of Art Faculty in Shivpuri, Sagar, Reewa, Sirohi, Vidisha and Khandwa on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for the disposal of the proposals;

(d) whether developmental works are hampered due to long time taken in the disposal of proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir. No such specific proposal has been submitted by Madhya Pradesh Government to the Ministry of Culture for the establishment of Art Faculty in Shivpuri, Sagar, Reewa, Sirohi, Vidisha and Khandwa on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Developing NSD as a Centre of Excellence

†3135. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to make the National School of Drama a Centre for Excellence after the expiry of its deemed University status; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National School of Drama (NSD) has informed that the NSD Society has constituted a Committee to examine the matter. A proposal for declaring National School of Drama as an Institution of National Importance has not yet been submitted to the Ministry.

Amendment in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972

3136. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendments in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 are under consideration for over 25 years with a view to make it more stringent;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for taking unusually long time in amending the Act; and

(c) by when the amendment of the Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Amendment to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 has indeed been under consideration of the Government, to provide for more stringent provisions against illegal and unauthorized export of antiquities and art treasures, while permitting a greater flexibility for domestic trade. Several attempts made in the past did not prove to be conclusive. An Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr.R.N. Misra has submitted its report on 1 June 2011, based on which wider consultation with members of the cultural community were carried out in September 2011. Subsequently, a Drafting Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice (retired) Shri Mukul Mudgal in November 2011.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a firm time-frame by when the amendment bill will be introduced as the finalization of amendments requires a phase of public consultations.

Funds allocated for Archaeological Monuments

3137. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: