

(b) and (c) Sir, the Tobacco Board is spending the amount collected as penalties from tobacco growers on several welfare activities being run for tobacco growers including infrastructure facilities, extension schemes, farmers study tours, assistance to growers for damage of crop/ barn, tobacco growers welfare fund and export promotion measures. The Tobacco Board has spent Rs. 129.24 crore on the above activities since 2000-01 upto February, 2012. The cess amount collected from the growers are remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India every year.

(d) Does not arise.

Amount allocated to ASI

2820. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount allocated to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which lapsed during the last three years, and the reasons for the same; and

(b) whether Government will consider a non-lapsing provision for ASI, considering the importance of its work?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The amount allocated to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during last three years was almost fully utilized. The percentage of utilization varied from 98 to 99%. The details of allocation of funds and utilization are as under :-

‘A’ - Plan

| Year | Plan (Rupees in crore) | |
|---------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Allocation | Expenditure |
| 2009-10 | 131.52 | 129.86 |
| 2010-11 | 156.53 | 155.13 |
| 2011-12 | 178.22 | 173.91 |

‘B’ - Non-Plan

| Year | Non-Plan (Rupees in crore) | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | Allocation | Expenditure |
| 2009-10 | 288.16 | 283.01 |
| 2010-11 | 267.53 | 266.59 |
| 2011-12 | 277.60 | 275.15 |

(b) A proposal for creation of Non Lapsable Fund for Conservation and preservation activities on National Monuments of ASI was taken up in 2004-05 and thereafter but was not approved.

Delay in light and sound show in Udayagiri caves

2821. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that light and sound show in Udayagiri caves has not been started; and

(b) if so, when was the work started, the progress of work, the reasons for not completing the same and the probable date by when it is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The project of sound and light show at Udayagiri caves was shelved due to the damages caused to the main structures of the caves during installation of fixtures. The installations have since been removed.

Request from Assam for separate funds for maintenance of heritage structures

2822. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received any request from State Government of Assam regarding grant of separate funds for maintenance of heritage structures in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the funds for the maintenance of heritage structures are likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) No such request has been received from Government of Assam. However, specific budget is allocated for North-East region including Assam for conservation work of the centrally protected monuments.

Financial irregularities in audit report of Asiatic Society, Kolkata

2823. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed internal audit was conducted in respect of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata by the Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry of Human Resource Development;