

guards are engaged for watch and ward duty of monuments under the protection of ASI.

(b) The Chennai Circle has 162 monuments and 162 sites without regular monument attendants. List is given in Annexure. [See Appendix 225 Annexure No. I] One Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer, 2 Assistant Superintending Archaeological Engineer, 5 Senior Conservation Assistant, 2 Conservation Assistant Grade-I, 6 Conservation Assistant Grade-II and 6 Foreman (works) of Conservation Cadre are posted in Chennai circle to look after conservation work of these monuments. These monuments and sites are being attended by casual employees, ex-defense servicemen and private security guards.

(c) No site conservation has been outsourced.

(d) Question does not arise.

Separate funds for heritage structures in Gujarat

190. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to grant 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Constitution of Indian Council of Zonal Cultural Centres

191. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Cultural Centres Review Committee constituted by the Prime Minister had submitted its report in April, 2011; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the report and, in particular, the constitution of an independent Indian Council of Zonal Cultural Centres?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Before taking a view on the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry forwarded the Report to all State Governments, concerned Ministries and organizations and also placed it on the website of the Ministry (www.indiaculture.nic.in) to seek views and comments of all the stakeholders. Comments received from State

Governments/Organizations/Stakeholders regarding recommendations of the Committee, including the constitution of an independent Indian Council of Zonal Cultural Centres, are under examination. The work relating to Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the ZCCs (one of the recommendations of the review committee) is underway. The policy for appointing Directors of the Zonal Cultural Centres has been revised as per the recommendations made by the Committee.

Promotion of cultural attributes of North-East

192. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provision made and steps taken for promotion of cultural attributes including amateur drama and theatre of North-East Region in National and International level;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry as well as other agencies, departments on cultural affairs are providing funds only for development of infrastructure rather than facilitating financial assistance to artists and instructors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of year-wise amount released, utilized, achievement made and list of implementing agencies, which receives fund for infrastructure development on cultural affairs during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Preservation of historical sites

193. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any comprehensive plan to identify, recommend and declare heritage sites across the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the steps taken in last three years, and proposed to be taken in next five years by Government to preserve, restore and safeguard the historic sites of archaeological importance such as Jaisalmer Fort, Taj Mahal, Lothal, Dholavira, Dwarka etc.; and

(c) what is the spending on conservation of national monumental sites of archaeological significance in last five years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The identification, recommendation and declaration of protected monuments of national importance, under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, is a continuous process. So far 3677 monuments/sites have been declared as of national importance.

(b) Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process. Every year