

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) As per the information received there is no proposal of widening National Highway passing through Moodbidri town. However, there is a proposal for widening of 2-lane with paved boulders from Simoga to Mangalore section of National Highway 13 by National Highway Authority of India project implementing unit, Mangalore. A by-pass road has been proposed for Moodbidri town and there is no danger to Chandranatha Temple, Thousand Pillar Temple and other ancient Jain monuments in Moodbidri, Karnataka.

(d) There is no provision under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 to declare any town as a 'Heritage' Town.

#### **Removal of encroachments by ASI**

2658. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in removing encroachments and rehabilitating the evicted encroachers;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of unsatisfactory rehabilitation, the encroachers have once again squatted within the premises with their wares; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by ASI to deal with this act?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Cultural programmes to promote art and culture**

†2659. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government regularly organises cultural programmes in various States especially in small cities and districts of the country including Maharashtra to promote art and culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each year during last three years and current year;

(c) the amount released and spent in the State during the said period; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.