

obtained and made part of the dossiers supporting Delhi's claim as World Heritage City?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The proposal of "Delhi—A heritage City" prepared by INTACH for the and purpose of Tentative listing has been submitted by Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation, Govt. of NCT, Delhi. The proposal has been included in the Tentative List of UNESCO.

(c) The proposal was also evaluated by the Advisory Committee on World Heritage Matters (ACWHM) under the aegis of Ministry of Culture before being forwarded to UNESCO.

Irregularities in financial assistance to artists

31. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Dr. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some irregularities have taken place in releasing financial assistance to the excelled individual artists and groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Expert Panel has already reported about the fraud to the Ministry during a meeting held on 17th August, 2011 itself;

(d) whether it is a fact that some organizations which were shortlisted have also been included in the list of grants issued;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the meeting held on 17th August, 2011, some of the Expert Committee members brought certain irregularities to the notice of this Ministry in respect of seven cases of Odisha seeking Production Grant under the Scheme of 'Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals Engaged for Specified Performing Arts Projects' [short name: Salary and Production Grants Scheme].

(d) and (e) The Expert Committee members pointed out that in the previous meeting held on 19th and 20th April, 2011, they had rejected six proposals for

production grant received from Odisha which found place among the recommended cases. They also pointed out that in the seventh case, an amount of Rs. 50,000/- only was recommended, while in the minutes it appeared as Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.

(f) Necessary corrective and remedial action has been initiated to fix responsibility. The Ministry has also taken following steps to ensure better transparency in the sanction of grants:

- (i) Grants are given only on the recommendation of an Expert Committee;
- (ii) Recommendations of the Expert Committee are placed on Ministry's website, for public information;
- (iii) All the documentary requirements like registration details, indemnity bond, bank details, etc. are insisted upon at the application stage;
- (iv) All the cases recommended in a particular meeting of the Expert Committee are processed together, for necessary approval; and
- (v) Sanctioned funds are transferred electronically direct into bank account of the beneficiary.

Light and sound shows in protected monuments

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

- (a) the State-wise details of protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) where the light and sound shows are being run;
- (b) whether the ASI/Ministry intends to run the light and sound show in other monuments also in future; and
- (c) if so, which are these monuments and by when the show will start in these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The details are given in Statement. (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Culture does not have a scheme to run the sound and light shows at centrally protected monuments/sites. However, proposals are received by ASI from time to time from State government departments, ITDC etc. which are considered, subject to technical appraisal and ensuring adequate safeguard to prevent any damages to the monuments.