

the Modernisation of State Police Forces Scheme under which, *inter-alia*, modern weaponry, fleet augmentation, upgradation of State Intelligence Units and training infrastructure are permissible heads of expenditure. At the National level, in order to deal with the menace of extremism and terrorism the Government has taken various measures which, *inter-alia*, include augmenting the strength of Central Armed Police Forces; establishment of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; empowerment of DG, NSG to requisition aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organizing of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24×7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence and security agencies; tighter immigration control; effective border management through round the clock surveillance & patrolling on the borders; establishment of observation posts, border fencing, flood lighting, deployment of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipment; upgradation of Intelligence setup; and coastal security. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended and notified in 2008 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism. The National Investigation Agency has been constituted under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule. As a part of steps to counter terrorists threats, the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has been created.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act has been amended in 2009 to *inter-alia*, include certain offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, as predicate offence.

Further, the Government continues to raise the issues of Cross-Border Terrorism in all its aspects including its financing at various multilateral and bilateral fora.

Deplorable conditions of archives and libraries

*143. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the country's archives and libraries are in a state of ruin;
 - (b) if so, what are the reasons behind this deplorable condition;
 - (c) whether Government is contemplating any plan of action in this regard;
- and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The National Archives of India, New Delhi and libraries administered by the Ministry of Culture namely National Library, Kolkata; Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna; Rampur Raza Library, Rampur; Delhi Public Library, Delhi; Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi; Central Reference Library, Kolkata and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi are in good condition and providing excellent service to the researchers, scholars and general public.

State Governments also administer and support State libraries and archives. Their modernization, proper upkeep and maintenance is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. Libraries and archives are also being run by private sector/NGOs.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Culture, as the nodal Ministry for the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage including public records, has taken several measures for improvement in the archives and libraries sector.

Since 1986, National Archives of India (NAI) is providing financial assistance to State/Union Territory archival repositories for preservation, microfilming and digitization of their records. NAI is also rendering technical assistance to various state archives by way of organizing workshops on conservation of documents and manuscripts. School of Archival Studies, NAI imparts training on various aspects of Records Management, Archives Administration, Preservation, Conservation and Reprography etc. of short and long term duration to all stake holders including State Archives, Ministries and Departments of Government of India

In the libraries under the Ministry of Culture, a number of measures for modernization, renovation and preservation have been undertaken. The projects, *inter-alia*, include:

1. Access to online full text journals in the National Library;
2. Online public access catalogue for library users;
3. Digitization of old and rare books including manuscripts;
4. Conservation and preservation of rare books and manuscripts using modern techniques etc.

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture provides financial assistance to Public Libraries maintained by the State Governments and NGOs under matching and non-matching schemes. During the year 2011-12, RRRLF has provided assistance to 12142 libraries all over the country.

Recently, a High Level Committee known as National Mission on Libraries (NML) has been set up by the Government for overall improvement in the library sector of the country. The activities proposed to be taken up by the Mission include:

1. National Census of Libraries;
2. Infrastructure development in Public Libraries;
3. Setting up a National Virtual Library;
4. Skill development programme for library staff;
5. Establishment of Knowledge Centres, Content Creation and Networking of Libraries etc.

The National Mission for Manuscripts has also been set up by Government of India to document, catalogue, preserve and conserve Manuscripts through training awareness and financial support to archives and holders of manuscripts.

Pressure by MNCs to increase FIIs' participation in retail trade

*144. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several America based multinational companies are exerting pressure on their Government to persuade Indian Government to increase Foreign Institutional Investors' (FIIs) participation in retail market in India;

(b) if so, information available with Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these companies have spent lakhs of dollars for this purpose during the quarter ending 30 June; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to opposition to increasing foreign investment in retail market in India, it is not possible to grant permission for it?