

Opening of NSD in Punjab

1275. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one National School of Drama (NSD) in the country; and

(b) whether Government intends to open more NSD in other parts of the country particularly in Punjab which has a big heritage culture?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Yes, Sir, there is a NSD in New Delhi. There is a partially operational National School of Drama Bengaluru Chapter also.

(b) The Broad Based Committee constituted by the National School of Drama Society in 2005 to suggest, *inter-alia*, the vision of the NSD with regard to the arts and theatre for the future, recommended opening of 5 Regional Schools across the country *viz.*, one each at Kolkata, Maharashtra/Goa, Bengaluru, Jammu and Kashmir and North-East. Subsequently, no further regional NSD has been envisaged anywhere in the country, including Punjab.

Publication of letters of Mahatma Gandhi

1276. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has secured Kollenbach-Gandhi letters, which contains thousands of letters written over three decades by Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) if so, whether Union Government would take serious steps to publish all letters of Mahatma Gandhi in the form of books to enable Indian population to know Mahatma's views on various aspects of life and Governance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Archives of India, New Delhi, an attached office of Ministry of Culture, has acquired approx. 1500 letters and papers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Important papers acquired by National Archives of India, which are to be brought to public domain, are published from time to time.