

Setting up of public library in NE States

1277. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is provided for setting up of public library in panchayat, block and district level under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the year-wise and State-wise details of allocation made, funds released and utilization along with criterion fixed in this regard; and

(c) the details of proposals received to sanction under the 10 per cent budgetary provision of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) as well as proposal-wise amount sanctioned, amount released including utilization and achievement made in this regard along with total fund incurred till date?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Construction of new museums under CSS

1278. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provided assistance to the State Governments for construction of new museums under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated, amount released and utilization made by the State Government of Assam for last three years; and

(d) the details of criterion fixed for implementation of the funds for construction of new museums in a State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) and (b) A Central Scheme for giving Assistance for "Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and local Museums" is operated by this Ministry, under which financial assistance is given for construction of new Museums since 2008-2009. Under this Scheme, Government has given, in principle,

approval to Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up a museum at Sironj, Vidisha and to Government of Uttaranchal at Rishikesh. In addition, in principle approval, to Government of Rajasthan to set up a museum at Baran was also given but later the request of Government of Rajasthan to change the priority to establish a museum at Old Vidhan Sabha Bhawan, Jaipur was accepted by the Government.

(c) No Proposal for financial assistance under the scheme has been received so far from the Government of Assam.

(d) For the purpose of support under the scheme, museums have been classified into two categories namely:

- (i) State Museums and renowned museums with exquisite collections as Category-I with maximum admissible financial assistance of Rs. 6 Crores; and
- (ii) Other Museums as Category-II with maximum admissible financial assistance of Rs. 3 Crores.

Postponement of purchaes of 197 LUHs

†1279. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry deferred its decision of purchasing of 197 Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs) after the allegation of demand of kickback of Rs. 25 crore was levelled on it and it approved the purchase of other equipments costing Rs. 6000 crore;

(b) if so, the appropriate measures/steps taken by Government to ensure transparency in the procurement of those equipment and avoidance of bribes; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these helicopters were to be purchased from Government of Italy and the Ministry has sought information in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. The procurement case is under examination.

(b) The Defence Procurement Procedure lays down stringent guidelines to effect utmost probity and transparency in procurement transactions.

(c) It is not a fact that these helicopters were to be purchased from Government of Italy. In the context of an allegation against one service officer, as appearing in the media, information has been sought from the Government of Italy.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.