

**Furnishing of information by field officer of ASI to CVC**

2815. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2351 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 2011 and state:

(a) whether the public authorities concerned from the field officer of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has furnished the required information on 12th May, 2012 and the approval of Director General of ASI on this alarming 'issue' is still awaited and same is on the ropeway;

(b) whether member of Parliament *vide* his letter dated 3rd October, 2012 has also apprised the Director General about all the loose ends of this case for which Central Vigilance Commission has been constantly reminding the Central Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, up to which specific date, the matter as whole will have its logical conclusion?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Information was received on 12th May, 2012 from Superintending Archaeologist, Delhi Circle of Archaeological Survey of India based on which demolition order was issued on 14.12.2012.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has issued orders to the Deputy Commissioner, South District, Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi for demolition of the unauthorizedly constructed Club Building under Rule 38 (2) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 on 14.12.2012. The action is now to be taken by the Deputy Commissioner, South District, New Delhi as per the rules.

**Classical languages status to Oriya**

2816. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Members of Parliament, Literary Associations of Odisha have demanded to declare Odia as the classical language;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that when some of the languages were considered and declared as classical language at that time the criteria was minimum 1000 years for consideration but after these languages were declared as classical language the criteria for eligibility has been changed to 1500 to 2000 years; and

(d) whether it is not a discrimination to other languages and whether Government will consider Oriya as classical language as per the old criteria?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The same will be placed before the Committee of Linguistic Experts.

(c) Notification No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II dated 12.10.2004, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India declared "high antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years" as one of the criteria to determine the eligibility of a language to be considered for classification as a 'Classical Language' which was later amended to "High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years" *vide* their Notification dated 25.11.2005.

(d) Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization (working for the promotion of letters and literature of Indian languages) under the Ministry of Culture treats all its 24 recognized languages at par. There is no question of discrimination in any of these languages. Demands/requests for categorization of any language as a classical language is considered as per the latest criteria laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs for this purpose.

#### **Relieving of ASI employees facing embezzlement charges**

2817. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints from the Members of Parliament and others of relieving of employees of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) facing the charge of embezzlement of Government funds to join the higher post in the Ministry of Urban Development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been taken to fix the responsibilities against the authorities who ordered the relieving of such employees?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) No complaint has been received.

(b) Does not arise.