'Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund', earlier called "Scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts, and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents". Assistance from the Government is in the form of monthly allowance. Such allowance given to the Artistes recommended under the Centre-State Quota is shared by the Centre and State Government / UT Administration concerned, with the latter paying a monthly allowance of at least Rs. 500/- per month per beneficiary. The monthly allowance contributed by the Central Government in such cases is not more than Rs. 3500/- per month per beneficiary and in cases of those recommended under Central Quota the assistance is not more than Rs. 4000/- per month per beneficiary. The assistance is remitted by LIC, directly into the artistes' bank accounts. The scheme has been in operation since 1961.

Besides, financial help subject to the prescribed limit, in case of hospitalization and other exigencies is provided to the Artistes already covered under Pension Scheme and the spouse / dependents after the Artistes death.

The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres with the main objective of the preservation, promotion and dissemination of the traditional folk arts and culture of different parts of the country.

Non-settlement of land rent by Army in Kashmir

*191 PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army had not settled rent for the lands under its occupation in Anantnag and other areas in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the list of such areas along with the dates by when rent would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) In Anantnag and other areas in Kashmir region (as distinct from Jammu and Ladakh regions of J&K) rents have been settled in 719 cases. Rentals for these lands are being paid regularly. There are 125 pending cases of settlement of rentals.

(b) Details of 125 pending cases of settlement of rent are given in the Statement (See below). Settlement of these cases involves various agencies including the State Government authorities. Continuous liaison is made with the State Government authorities for expeditious settlement of the cases. As different agencies and procedural issues are involved, it is difficult to fix a definite time-frame in which the cases can be resolved.

Details of 125 *Pending Cases of Settlement of Rent*

Sl. No.	District	Number of Cases
1.	Anantnag	17
2.	Budgam	17
3.	Ganderbal	7
4.	Pulwama	10
5.	Shopian	2
6.	Srinagar	4
7.	Kulgam	1
8.	Bandipora	7
9.	Baramulla	28
10.	Kupwara	32
	TOTAL:	125

Holding up of purchase of ULH Artillery guns from USA

*192 DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held up the purchase of 145 Ultra Light Howitzer (ULH) artillery guns from the USA;