

drug law enforcement agencies and security agencies and synergizing flow of intelligence to check the menace of smuggling of drugs and illegal arms. Financial assistance is also provided to the North Eastern States for strengthening their narcotics cell.

Amendments to Archaeological Sites and Protected Monuments Act

2951. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to amend the Archaeological Sites and Protected Monuments Act, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has received any representation regarding the difficulties being faced by common people due to the enforcement of this Act, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has proposed to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and has just started the process of reviewing based upon past experience and the contemporary ground realities so as to enable better management of protected monuments and sites.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Although there is no specific complaint received by the Archaeological Survey of India except representation regarding the difficulties being faced by the common people due to the enforcement of this Act, especially in Tamil Nadu. Government of India had issued a preliminary notification to declare Sthalasayanaperumal temple at Mamalapuram as a monument of national importance in 2003-04. But the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department through the Madras High Court got a stay order on the preliminary notification. On the directions of the Hon'ble court, a Public hearing was held in 2012 in Mamallapuram involving political parties and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department. The matter was further examined by the Government. In view of the objections raised by local people, Government has decided not to declare Sthalasayanaperumal temple at Mamalapuram as monument of national importance.

Pension to writers, actors and other cultural activists

2952. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any schemes to give pensions to writers, actors and other cultural activists, if so, the details thereof;