

**Encouragement to cultural exchanges between various linguistic communities**

1110. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to encourage cultural exchanges between various linguistic communities;

(b) whether Government has implemented or is planning to implement a scheme for cultural exchanges between school students for developing and appreciation of and gaining exposure to different regional cultures and languages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) This is a continuous process. Festivals, training, workshops and exhibitions are organized by various autonomous organizations under Ministry of Culture all over India to promote cultural exchanges. Cultural training exclusively for teachers, educators and students are also organized. Scholarships are granted to children between 10-14 years of age to develop their talents in various cultural fields. "Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme" has been devised to distribute audio-visual material among school students. Sahitya Akademi undertakes translation of the literature available in various Indian languages. With a view to protect traditional folk and tribal performing arts, artists from the different regions/languages are imparted training.

**Committee for National Conservation Policy for protected monuments**

1111. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee was constituted to prepare a National Conservation Policy for conservation of protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has prepared the policy and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of implementation of the policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A multidisciplinary Committee was constituted to prepare National Policy for Conservation of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The composition of the Committee is given in Statement (*See* below).