

attraction or a stinking garbage dumpyard?” appeared in print media on 17th October, 2014 about miserable condition and poor maintenance at the site;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to maintain and upkeep the area surrounding archaeological sites, especially when it is a big tourist centre for both domestic and foreign tourists;

(d) whether any periodic inspection by higher officials is proposed to monitor of such sites; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The news item pertains to an incident of throwing of garbage outside the fort wall of Red Fort, area not under the control of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). On coming into notice the area was cleaned and concerned authorities were informed to maintain it neat and clean.

(c) For surrounding area of protected monuments constant efforts are made by ASI to keep it clean with the help of local authorities.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Protected monuments are visited regularly by senior officials of ASI in connection with conservation and various other issues related to sites including cleanliness.

#### **Pension/ financial assistance to artists of Kerala**

339. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated/expenditure incurred by Government for preserving the traditional art forms of Kerala during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the achievements made in this direction, so far;

(c) the number of requests received from the artists of Kerala for sanction of pension/financial assistance during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the time-limit for sanction/approval of pension to the artists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Government provides grant-in-aid to the Zonal Cultural Centres and not directly to the States. The State of Kerala comes under the jurisdiction of the South

Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC). The details of funds released to SZCC during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

Sl.No.	Year	(₹ in lakh)
1.	2011-12	176.03
2.	2012-13	95.04
3.	2013-14	830.66
4.	2014-15 (as on date)	1318.10
Including grant-in aid released for enhancement of corpus funds		

The expenditure incurred by SZCC for preserving the tradition art forms of Kerala during each of the last three years and current year is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	(₹ in lakh)
1.	2011-2012	14.32
2.	2012-2013	21.81
3.	2013-2014	65.27
4.	2014-2015 (as on 30.6.2014)	9.12

(b) Government has setup seven Zonal Cultural Centres for preservation, promotion and dissemination of folk and tribal art and culture of all the States/Union Territories of the country. The State of Kerala comes under the jurisdiction of South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur. The South Zone Cultural Centre, South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC) and Sangeet Natak Academy have documented a total of 81 traditional art forms of Southern States and Union Territory out of which 12 traditional art forms have been documented from the State of Kerala. Besides these organization, several other organizations of the Government like Kalakshetra Foundation, Centre for Culture Resources and Training, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Lalit Kala Academy and Anthropological Survey of India are also working extensively for documenting art forms and cultural traditions in the country including Southern India.

(c) The number of requests received from the artists of Kerala for sanction of pension/financial assistance during each of the last three years and the current year are given as under:

2011-2012	94
2012-2013	71
2013-2014	106
2014-2015	205

(d) Requests received from the artists of Kerala during the last three years have already been considered by the Expert Committee in its meeting held on 2nd & 3rd December, 2013. The Expert Committee has recommended a total of 117 applications belonging to the State of Kerala for grant of financial assistance under the provisions of Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund.

#### **Removal of encroachments around ancient monuments**

340. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has issued 1593 demolition orders between 1st October, 2010 to 31st October, 2014 to remove encroachments in and around ancient monuments across the country;

(b) if so, how many of them have been successfully carried out and encroachments have been completely removed;

(c) the reasons for not enforcing the demolition orders, if any; and

(d) the time-frame within which Government will comply with the orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) A total of 1950 demolition orders have been issued under Rule 38(1) and 38(2) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains 1958 (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and Rules 1959 from 1st October, 2010 to 31st October, 2014.

(b) Out of 1950, 32 demolition orders have been successfully executed.

(c) and (d) As per the statutory provisions the Archaeological Survey of India is bound to approach the District Authority for removal of encroachments from protected monuments/area and unauthorised constructions in the prohibited and regulated areas. Lack of effective cooperation of District Administration and implementation of provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and Rules, 2011 by them are main reasons for non execution of demolition orders.