

(c) the steps taken by Government to have uniform guidelines to preserve and secure the artefacts in museums; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government to check siphoning of valuable artefacts from central museums to the international markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Museums under the Ministry of Culture acquire objects either through purchase or donation after a detailed process and scrutiny by their Art Acquisition Committees, consisting of experts and eminent art historians. To assess the genuineness of artefacts, Curators/Historians use stylistic methods prevalent during the different periods. These are substantiated by scientific examination. These museums also conduct physical verification of objects at periodic intervals and compare the artefacts physically with the details given in the accession register, to ensure their genuineness.

(c) and (d) As a part of the 14 point museum reform programme of Ministry of Culture which is uniformly being implemented in all museums of Ministry / Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in order to ensure safety and security of artefacts in the museums, increased emphasis is being laid upon Museum security. The museums under the Ministry have been upgrading their security status by utilizing modern technological gadgets like CCTV's, X – Ray baggage machines (scanners) and metal detectors. Manual security in the museums has also been strengthened to ensure the safety of their objects. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed at National Museum, New Delhi and Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad.

Also, priority has been given to digital documentation of the collections of Museums so as to have a readily available database of the collections. “Jatan” collections management software has been started in 10 museums under the Ministry of Culture/ASI for digital photography and cataloguing.

Further, to develop a uniform ‘Security Policy’ for the museums under the Ministry of Culture and ASI, a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry.

Winding up of Coordination Committee of Zonal Cultural Centres

*223. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the Coordination Committee of the Zonal Cultural Centres has been wound up; and

(b) the alternative arrangements being made to monitor the implementation of the substantive recommendations of the Review Committee that submitted its Report in 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Coordination Committee of the Zonal Cultural Centres (CCZCC) was set up in September, 2013, under the Chairmanship of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), to ensure implementation of recommendations of the 'Aiyar Committee' which were to be implemented by Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs), to coordinate among ZCCs, their member States and with the Ministry, etc.

However, the ZCCs are autonomous bodies having their own Governing Body and Executive Board Chaired by Hon'ble Governor of the State where the headquarter of ZCC is located and have been discharging their duties effectively which include coordination with other ZCCs, Ministry and other concerned organizations. Besides, the recommendations made by the 'Aiyar Committee', which were to be implemented by ZCCs, stand accepted and implemented/ being implemented.

The Government have, therefore, decided to wind up the said Committee *w.e.f.* 16.12.2014.

(b) Ministry of Culture is directly monitoring the implementation of the various recommendations of the Committee, on a regular basis.

Lack of basic amenities in Giroudpuri tourist spot, Chhattisgarh

†*224. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Giroudpuri in the State of Chhattisgarh has been accorded the status of a tourist spot but basic amenities such as lodging and drinking water, etc. are not available to the pilgrims there; and

(b) if so, whether Government would provide these facilities in Giroudpuri as are available in other centres of pilgrimage by forming a trust for Giroudpuri?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Giroudpuri in the State of Chhattisgarh has been identified as a tourist place by the State Government of Chhattisgarh. Tourist amenities such as drinking water and accommodation in the form of guest-houses under Forest Department and district authorities are available there. Giroudpuri in the State of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.