

- (c) whether it is also a fact that the maps for each site would be published soon; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India has proposed to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and has started the process of reviewing the Act including provisions on restrictions for construction near the monuments.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India has entrusted the responsibility of preparing the maps showing protected/prohibited/regulated areas of the protected monuments/sites of national importance to Survey of India. It has also been decided to collaborate with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for preparation of maps.

Classical status to Marathi language

2270. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted the proposal to the Ministry requesting the classical status to Marathi language;
- (b) if so, is the proposal complete in all respects; and
- (c) if answer to (b) above is 'yes' what is the time-frame to grant the status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for grant of classical status to Marathi language. The proposal was considered by the Linguistic Experts Committee which recommended that classical status be given to Marathi language. No time-frame to declare the language a classical one can be fixed as the procedure involves consultation with various Ministries and finally approval of the Cabinet.

Promotion of Majuli as a World Heritage Act

2271. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Majuli, the largest River Island of Assam, is unique in its natural settings as well as cultural aspects and occupies a special place, the Satras of Majuli over the centuries given cultural heritage to the region;

(b) the Majuli, which is visited by a large number of tourists round the year, truly deserves to become a World Heritage Site with its ancient religious and cultural aspects and traditions; and

(c) what measures and actions Government has taken on this important matter and whether Government is taking a special and comprehensive plan and programme for promoting Majuli as a World Heritage Site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Majuli is the largest River Island of Assam, and is unique in its natural setting as well as cultural aspects and occupies a special place. The Satras of Majuli over the centuries have given cultural heritage to the region.

(b) and (c) The nomination dossier of 'River Island Majuli Cultural Landscape in midstream of Brahmaputra river in Assam' was submitted to World Heritage Centre through PRI in January, 2012. It was not in consonance with the revised UNESCO Operational Guideline (OG) of 2011. The State Government was entrusted to prepare the Majuli nomination dossier as per the existing guidelines in force *vide* letter no.2/6/A/2002-UNESCO Pt-II dated 07.11.2014 from Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Government of India to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam.

Showcasing Indian culture to foreign tourists

2272. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to showcase Indian culture to the foreign tourists visiting the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any review to know the utility and impact of the programmes of the Ministry to showcase Indian culture to the foreign tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and current year and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of flagship programmes implemented by Government for promoting Indian culture in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Ministry of Culture conducts regular programmes to disseminate Indian Art and Culture in India and abroad. These programmes are accessible to all and not specific to foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) There are no such flagship programmes.