

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps undertaken by Government to promote art and culture in the country and amount of expenditure made towards this; and
- (d) how many new arts and cultural bodies are being planned or proposed by Government in 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As against BE (Plan) 2014-15 of ₹ 1111.83 crore for National Arts and Cultural Bodies under Ministry of Culture, which was reduced to ₹ 965.35 at RE 2014-15, an amount of ₹ 1040.86 crore has been allocated for the year 2015-16, there by showing an increase of 7.82% over RE 2014-15.

(c) Ministry has been making all out efforts to promote Art & Culture in the country through its attached, sub-ordinate and autonomous organizations and departmentally implemented Plan schemes under which grants-in-aid are released to NGOs, Universities and other organizations etc. During the year 2014-15, as against total Plan RE of ₹ 1500.00 crore, an amount of ₹ 1416.79 crore (94.45%) has been incurred by the Ministry.

(d) During 2015-16, there is no proposal for setting up of new Art and Cultural bodies under this Ministry.

#### **High Powered Committee Recommendation to create Culture Cadre**

1911. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a High Powered Committee (HPC) constituted by Government had recommended to create Culture Cadre to work in the Ministry and its Institutions; and
- (b) if so, the response of Government to this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. High Powered Committee has not made any recommendation regarding creation of a cultural cadre in its Report which has been submitted to the Government. However, the Committee has recommended that a pool of 50 positions for young people may be created within the Ministry of Culture. At present for various organizations under the Ministry of Culture, Recruitment Rules have been amended to have the Heads of Organisations from the cultural background. Besides as per the need consultants with cultural background are also appointed by various organizations.