

Withdrawal of Delhi's nomination for World Heritage City tag

2587. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permanent delegation of India in United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has withdrawn Delhi's nomination for a UNESCO World Heritage City tag;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the total expenditure incurred during last ten years on preparation of preliminary and final dossier in this regard for submission to UNESCO; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. Government of India has not withdrawn the nomination of Delhi as a UNESCO World Heritage City but has only requested the UNESCO Secretariat for postponement of the consideration of the nomination. Question does not arise.

(b) An amount of ₹ 91.10 lakh was spent on preparation of nomination dossier which was funded by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Virtual Library of India

2588. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission recommended a National Mission on Libraries (NML) which includes the setting up of National Virtual Library of India and Model Libraries at State and District level under the Ministry that would provide knowledge network connectivity across India; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any concrete steps in this regard so far and if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Knowledge Commission recommended setting up of a National Mission on Libraries.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government in this regard:

(i) A High Level Committee *i.e.* National Mission on Libraries was set up *vide* notification dated 4.5.2012.