

**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whether the permanent delegation of India in United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has withdrawn Delhi's nomination for a UNESCO World Heritage City tag;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 Government of India has not withdrawn the nomination of Delhi as a UNESCO World Heritage City but has only requested the UNESCO Secretariat for postponement of the consideration of the nomination.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.

- (ii) The National Mission on Libraries identified four core areas of work:
- Creation of National Virtual Library of India
  - Setting up of NML Model Libraries.
  - Quantitative and Qualitative Survey.
  - Capacity building.
- (iii) The Scheme, “National Mission on Libraries—Upgradation of Libraries providing services to the Public” has been approved with an outlay of ₹ 400.00 crores during the Twelfth plan period.
- (iv) Projects for developing five public libraries as model libraries have been approved is given in Statement-I.
- (v) Projects for setting up NML model libraries have been approved for twelve States, is given in Statement-II.
- (vi) The work of quantitative and qualitative survey of libraries has started.
- (vii) The work of capacity building of library personnel has started.

**Statement-I**

*Five public libraries to which grants have been given by NML*

Sl. No.	Public Library
1.	Delhi Public Library, Delhi
2.	Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna
3.	Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur
4.	National Library, Kolkata
5.	Central Secretariat Library, Delhi

**Statement-II**

*Details of funds allocated by NML for State and district libraries in twelve States for setting up model libraries*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Library	Amount of approved Project estimates
1	2	3	4
1.	Goa	Krishnadas Shama State Central Library	223.00
		Dr. Francisco Luis Gomes Dist. Library	87.00
2.	Karnataka	State Central Library , Bangalore	223.00

1	2	3	4
		District Central Library, Shivamogga	87.00
3.	Rajasthan	State Central Library, Jaipur	100.83
4.	West Bengal	State Central Library, Kolkata	222.81
		North Bengal State Library , Coochbehar	86.98
5.	Uttar Pradesh	State Central Library, Allahabad	206.00
		Government District Library Etawah	87.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	District Library, Raigarh	87.00
		District Library, Danteywada	87.00
7.	Gujarat	State Central Library, Gandhi Nagar	106.01
8.	Odisha	H.K.M.State Library, Bhubaneswar	223.00
		District Library, Ganjam	40.36
9.	Telangana	State Central Library, Afzalganj, Hyderabad	112.25
		District Library Mehboob Nagar	52.00
10.	Tripura	Birchandra State Central Library, Agartala	223.00
		Unakoti District Library, Kailashahar	87.00
11.	Mizoram	State Central Library, Aizawal	100.00
		District Library, Kolasib	50.00
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	State Central Library, Itanagar	223.00
		District Library, Pasighat	87.00

**Preservation of ethnic groups' culture of NE Region**

2589. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project of preservation, development and exposure of various ethnic groups' culture of North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Ministry and its various attached/sub-ordinate offices and autonomous organizations undertake cultural activities/programmes/projects through their Plan schemes for protection, preservation and promotion of culture across the country including the North Eastern Region.