

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unsafe historical monuments

1951. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared or is planning to declare any historical monument site unsafe keeping in view its structure and risk of collapsing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps in order to repair these sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Financial irregularities in Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda

1952. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of acts of commission of gross financial and administrative irregularities like huge payments without following due procedure, making appointments to administrative and teaching staff, etc. without following due procedure of law by Director, Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda, Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government has investigated/ proposes to investigate the irregularities and take necessary disciplinary action against the Director; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Recommendations of Ranganath Pathare
Committee on Marathi**

1953. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the recommendations of the Ranganath Pathare Committee of expert linguists and historians and is planning to accord the status of classical language to Marathi; 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) The Government of Maharashtra alongwith a report of the Marathi classical language committee headed by Prof. Ranganath Pathare had submitted a proposal for grant of classical status to Marathi language. However, in view of pending writ petitions in the High Court of Madras, further action could not be taken.

Special force to protect monuments

1954. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: whether there is any special group to protect monuments and art installations in the country and if so, the details thereof and the time by when the special force is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Yes, Sir. A committee of Ministry of Culture has recommended a Special Force along with the help of tools and electronic gadgets for protection of Monuments and art installations as part of a comprehensive security policy.

At present the cultural assets are provided with security by regular watch and ward staff, Home Guards, CISF and private security guards.

Preservation of white marble of Taj Mahal

1955. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large scale burning of municipal solid waste has resulted in Taj Mahal's white marble losing its sheen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Ministry to preserve the white marble of Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Gaseous pollutants, dust particles and Suspended Particulate Matter, if deposited on any stone surface, the original colour and sheen of the surface is masked to some extent. Gaseous pollutants also contribute to reduce the clear visibility of the original surface. However, local authorities are taking necessary steps to reduce pollution around the Taj Mahal. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is regularly monitoring ambient air quality of Taj Mahal