

Special force to protect monuments

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to create a special force to protect monuments and art installations;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and
- (c) the time by when the special force is likely to be created and start its protection operations?

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

(c) No time frame may be indicated at this stage as it is still under consideration of the Government.

Organising an international festival of dance

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to organise an International Festival of Dance in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the venue of such kind of festival along with the names of the participating countries; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any programme of such kind had been organised in the past in India?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Organizing an International Dance Festival require extensive planning in terms of logistics, finances and coordination with participating countries and Government needs to prioritize its policies and programmes. Presently, no such proposal is on its priority. No programme of such kind has been organized in the past in India.