

Renovation of Rabindra Bhawans

1163. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several projects on renovation of Rabindra Bhawans are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received so far therein;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to spend money to build new Rabindra Bhawans, than to renovate the older ones; and

(d) if so, details of proposals and action plan on the applications on the matter so far?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Strengthening of ASI office at Bhubaneswar

1164. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state: whether Government has plans to strengthen the Archaeological Survey of India office at Bhubaneswar with required laboratory facilities and technical manpower for issue of non-antiquity certificate in time in order to boost export-oriented handicraft industries of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Yes, Sir. Requisite laboratory facilities and technical manpower are provided in all laboratories, including Bhubaneswar, on need basis. There is an Expert Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Superintending Archaeologist of each Circle including Bhubaneswar Circle for issuing non-antiquity certificate brought by handicraft exporter for the purpose of export. The Committee meets regularly in the Circle office as and when request for issuing of non-antiquity certificate is received from exporter. There is no report of delay in disposing of such request.

Creation of Art Council

1165. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to create an Art Council to encourage creativity in arts field; and