

List of persons debarred from visiting Punjab

*264. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has maintained any black list debarring some persons, who went overseas during operation Blue Star, from visiting Punjab; and

(b) if so, the status of the list?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Names of foreign nationals and foreigners of Indian origin who are found to have indulged in anti-India activities, heinous crimes or violated visa rules are placed in a negative list after due consultations. Such persons are barred from entering into India for specified time period. Government of India does not maintain state or region-wise data in respect of such persons. The negative list is reviewed from time to time as per established procedure in consultation with the concerned agencies. Recently, the Government reviewed cases of foreign nationals of Indian origin in the negative list and decided to delete the names of 225 such persons from it.

Financial assistance to artists

†*265. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial help is being provided to States and artists for propagating, spreading and building their local culture in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise list of the above said States and artists who have been provided funds from financial year 2014-15 to 2016-17 for the said purpose; and

(c) whether Government would consider increasing the amount of funds to be given to the artists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India provides financial help to artists for propagating, spreading and building their local culture in different parts of the country. In addition to that, the Government of India also provides

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

funds to 7 Zonal Cultural Centres to protect, preserve and promote various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country. The Ministry of Culture does not release funds to the State Governments and Union Territories.

(b) The State-wise list of artistes who have been provided funds from financial year 2014-15 to 2016-17 is very voluminous. The list of these artistes is available at the website of the Ministry *i.e.* <http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/performing-arts-grants-scheme-minutes>.

(c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government of India.

Import of kite strings from China

†*266. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the kite strings being imported from China are laden with powder of Lead, Magnate, Plastic and Nylon;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware about the death of people and birds taking place owing to the use of such strings for kite flying; and

(c) whether any mandatory instructions have been incorporated in the contract inked with companies involved in import of such strings and the metals used therein, so that it does not cause harm to life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As no specific Exim Code for abrasive string used for kites (manjha) exists under Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2012, separate import data and other related information regarding abrasive string used for kites (manjha) are not available. Chinese manza is a loose description given to kite threads made of nylon and may not necessarily be imported from China.

(b) Some petitions/grievances have been received requesting a ban on import of Chinese manza (kite strings). There are some reports of injuries to humans, animals and birds in some parts of the country.

(c) Import data on plastic/synthetic thread shows that it is imported under four different Chapter Heads: Chapter 39, 54, 55 & 56 of Indian Trade Classification [Harmonised System] 2012. In addition, as kite flying kit (toy) containing such

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