

- (vii) Further, the Government continues to provide the facility of access to duty free raw materials and capital goods for exports through schemes like Advance Authorization, Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA), Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and drawback / refund of duties.

**Cultural heritage youth leadership programme**

†823. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme is being run by the Central Government for increasing cultural awareness and mutual understanding and respect among the youth with a view to develop proper leadership qualities among them and for making them more aware about their culture in order to inculcate love for India's rich heritage in their minds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the main focus of this programme is on the youth residing in backward areas who have comparatively less access to resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Culture had mooted a project proposal titled "Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme (CHYP)".

This scheme envisaged enriching awareness of Indian culture and heritage amongst the youth in order to promote, understand and develop fondness for India's rich cultural heritage, with a view to develop appropriate leadership qualities amongst youth. The focus of the programme was to be on less privileged children residing in backward areas by interacting with them in vernacular languages for their better understanding.

However, while initially, the scheme was being run on its own, the Ministry is reworking this proposal and integrating this with Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB).

**Construction of boundary walls and toilets at all monuments**

824. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reserved a fund for the construction of boundary walls and toilets at all monuments which are under protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the list of monuments identified for the purpose, State-wise and details of the funds earmarked for each of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, funds have been reserved specifically for the construction of boundary walls & toilets at all select monuments protected by ASI. Funds to each of the monuments will be earmarked once detailed proposals are prepared by the executing agencies.

#### **Preservation of Sonar fort, Jaisalmer**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Sonar Fort in Jaisalmer has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the base of Sonar Fort is getting weak and the walls have started crumbling;

(c) if so, whether Archaeological Survey of India has investigated its reasons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to save Sonar Fort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Jaisalmer Fort, popularly known as Sonar Qila is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List under the serial nomination Hill Forts of Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India is constantly monitoring the condition of the fort for over three decades. The Geotechnical investigation has been carried out by Geological Survey of India to study the geological formations beneath the fort whereas Inclinator and Permeability tests have been carried out by private agencies to understand the nature of voids and their behavior and to assess the condition of the hillock.

(e) Archaeological Survey of India is carrying out sustained conservation of the fort to the possible extent wherever required. Necessary steps are being taken to conserve and strengthen the weak portions of the fortification within the available resources.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.