

(d) and (e) No, Sir. No such case has come to the notice of the National Mission for Manuscripts.

Proposal to open regional branches of NSD

2584. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to open regional branches of National School of Drama (NSD) to tap the regional talents;

(b) if so, by when such regional centres of NSD are proposed to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Broad Based Committee (Vision Committee) set up by the National School of Drama (NSD) Society in February 2005, *inter-alia*, had recommended opening of five regional centres of the NSD across the country. On the basis of these recommendations, the decision to establish five regional centres during the 11th Five Year Plan period (2007-2012), one each at Kolkata, Mumbai/Goa, J&K and North-East besides upgrading the existing Regional Resource cum Research Centre, Bengaluru to a full-fledged regional centre was taken by the Government. These regional centres were to be established in consultation with concerned State Governments, who were required to provide land/accommodation for the purpose. So far, only Government of Karnataka has provided land/accommodation in 2013 at Bengaluru for the purpose. Till date, no other concerned State Government has provided land to the NSD for opening of its regional branches.

Incidentally, a proposal to declare NSD as an Institution of National Importance is under consideration of the Government. Till such time a final decision is taken in the matter, the NSD has decided to defer the opening of regional centres.

However, under NSD's Out-reach/Extension Programme, two Centres one at Gangtok (Sikkim) and another at Agartala (Tripura) are functioning and also conducting one year theatre training course in addition to the one being conducted at Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Declaring Paika rebellion of Odisha as First War of Independence

2585. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the comment of the President of India in his inaugural address of the Bi-Centenary Celebration of Paika rebellion of Odisha, that "Paika rebellion enjoys cult status in Odisha with children growing up

with stories of brave fight against the British, it unfortunately received less attention at the national level that it should have got", obviously referring to the demand of Odisha for declaring Paika rebellion as the first war of India's Independence; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to give attention and declare the Paika rebellion as the first war of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The speech of Hon'ble President of India in the inaugural function of the Bi-centenary celebrations of Paika rebellion has been noted. The Finance Minister too in his budget speech 2017-18 announced that "200 years ago in 1817, a valiant uprising of soldiers led by Buxi Jagabandhu took place in Khurdha of Odisha. We will commemorate the same appropriately". The inaugural function of the year-long commemoration of Bi-centenary of Paika rebellion of Odisha has been organised in Delhi on 20.7.2017 in accordance with the budget announcement.

(b) At this stage such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

Providing network connectivity to libraries under NML in West Bengal

2586. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of district libraries provided with network connectivity under National Mission on Libraries (NML) in West Bengal;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of public libraries modernized under the mission, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) what is the current status of qualitative and quantitative survey of 5000 libraries;

(e) the total number of libraries from West Bengal surveyed under the scheme;

(f) the details of new initiatives taken under the programme to increase the youth engagement; and

(g) 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) No district Library has been provided network connectivity under National Mission on Libraries (NML). However, on the request of NML, National Knowledge Network (NKN) has provided network connectivity to one State Central Library and National Library in West Bengal. The following libraries have been provided network connectivity by NKN: