

(c) whether the problems of seepage and water logging in Indian Museum, Kolkata have been taken care of; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The upkeep and maintenance of museums is an on-going activity and is taken up on a regular basis. Constant effort is being made for further improvement.

(c) and (d) Repair work on the sewerage under and around the Indian Museum and courtyard has been carried out to address the problem of seepage and water logging.

Role of Secretary in Sahitya Akademi

†361. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever paid any attention to the fact that since the post of Secretary in Sahitya Akademi is permanent, the activities of the Akademi become static and stereotyped leading to a *status quoist* situation in literary activities and developmental potential is choked; and

(b) whether Government would consider making the post of Secretary, Sahitya Akademi a co-terminus post with the post of President of Sahitya Akademi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The duration of the post of Secretary in Sahitya Akademi is not permanent but is determined by the Executive Board taking into consideration the experience and expertise obtained by the service to literature. There is nothing on record to show that the activities of the Akademi are static, or that they have become stereotype in nature leading to a *status quoist* situation in literary activities and chokes developmental potential owing to the duration of the post of Secretary.

A close study of the history of Sahitya Akademi will bring to light how each Secretary of the Akademi was unique and how each of them brings innovation in his own unique way and has contributed richly in taking the Akademi on the forward march over the past 63 years. There is enough evidence that the Akademi has been evolving and growing – both in quality and quantity. It would be pertinent to remember that this evolution and growth of the Sahitya Akademi has been happening under the able leadership of the various Executive Boards with Secretaries as Principal Executive Officers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Today, Sahitya Akademi has grown to organizing more than 500 literary programmes annually throughout the country, publishing more than 500 literary books in the 24 recognized languages, innovating to undertake newer methods of dissemination and production and reaching out to every nook and corner of the country, just to name a few. Sahitya Akademi has also been promoting oral and tribal literature, undertakes cultural activities with several countries across the globe and has been striving to unite varied cultural, linguistic and literary traditions of the country through translational activities and initiatives.

The activities of the Secretary of the Akademi are continuously reviewed and is accountable. Moreover, the working of Secretaries gets reviewed by the 240 language advisory board members, the Executive Board and the General Council of the Akademi. The Secretary of the Akademi is accountable to all these members.

Further, the duration of the post of the President of the Akademi is co-terminus with the duration of the General Council which is for five years whereas the duration of Secretary gets determined by the Executive Board taking into consideration the experience and expertise obtained by the service to literature.

Andaman Cellular Jail

362. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from undivided Bengal were the highest to put in Andaman Cellular Jail; and

(b) if so, the total number and names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Art and Culture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair has stated that as per their available records, 535 revolutionaries were jailed in the Cellular Jail from 1909 to 1938 and out of them 387 revolutionaries were from the undivided Bengal.

The available records have details of the 535 revolutionaries and are properly maintained. Information with regard to 'names' is being collected.

Research and excavation on Ramayana and Mahabharata period

363. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether any concerted studies/research work/excavation work has been conducted to determine the exact calendar period of occurrence of Ramayana and Mahabharata;