

In order to promote Indian literature in other countries and also to provide ample first hand exposure to Indian writers representing several Indian languages, Sahitya Akademi has been implementing the Cultural Exchange Programmes across the globe apart from sending writers or delegations on the invitation of governments or literary institutions abroad.

During the last three years, the Sahitya Akademi has published the following titles under the scheme, Indian Literature Abroad (ILA):

- (1) Herbert by Nabarun Bhattacharya into German (Publisher Draupadi Verlag).
- (2) Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh into Swedish (Publisher Tranan Publishing House).
- (3) Kattil Oru Mann by Ambai into French (by Zulma).

Under the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) with other countries, the following titles have been published:

- (1) Bharata the Natya Sastra by Kapila Vatsayayan (in Russian Language).
- (2) Indian Short Stories by E.V. Ramakrishnan (in Russian Language).

Savings under PAHAL Scheme

*36. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of savings under the PAHAL Scheme in the last two years;
- (b) the method of calculation of savings that has been used by Government; and
- (c) how much of the savings can be attributed to the change in global prices of LPG and how much is due to the plugging of leakages, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had launched modified Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL/PAHAL) Scheme in 54 districts on 15.11.2014 and across the country on 01.01.2015. LPG consumers, who join the PAHAL scheme, get the LPG cylinders at non-subsidised price and receive LPG subsidy (as per their entitlement) directly into their registered bank accounts. An intensive exercise was carried out for identifying duplicate/fake/ghost/inactive domestic LPG connections. As on 18.7.2017, more than 18 crore consumers have joined PAHAL Scheme and are getting subsidy in their bank account.

Estimated savings arising out of the PAHAL scheme for the year 2014-15 to 2016-17 by the Ministry is as under:—

- (a) For the year 2014-15: Estimated savings was ₹ 14,818.4 crore. 369.72 (average subsidy per cylinder for that year) $\times 3.34$ (number of blocked customers) $\times 12$ (entitled number of subsidized domestic cylinders per annum) = ₹ 14,818.4 crore.
- (b) 2015-16—Estimated savings was ₹ 6,443 crore. 150.82 (average subsidy per cylinder for that year) $\times 3.56$ (number of blocked customers) $\times 12$ (entitled number of subsidized domestic cylinders per annum) = ₹ 6,443 crore.
- (c) 2016-17—Estimated savings was ₹ 8,185 crore. 6.27 (number of blocked customers, Give It Up customers, etc.) $\times 108.78$ (average subsidy per cylinder that year) $\times 12$ (entitled number of subsidized domestic cylinders per annum) = ₹ 8,185 crore.

The total consumption of cooking gas in any given year is a combination of the number of connections at the beginning of the year, bogus connections eliminated during the year through the process of DBT under PAHAL, new connections issued to genuine consumers during the year and normal fluctuations in individual consumption. Hence, the savings from DBTL cannot be correctly computed merely by reference to the total consumption in a year or the total expenditure on subsidy. If the DBT had not been implemented, the outgo on the subsidy would have been higher by ₹ 14,818 crore in 2014-15, ₹ 6,443 crore in 2015-16 and ₹ 8,185 crore in 2016-17. Hence, the total savings from the elimination of fake/duplicate/ghost connections as a result of implementation of DBT for the three years together, as calculated above, is estimated at more than ₹ 29,000 crore. This figure is not comparable with the actual expenditure on subsidy which includes the subsidy on new genuine connections given during these three years. Without implementation of PAHAL, subsidy burden would have been higher than the actual expenditure recorded during these years, even with lower petroleum prices.

Jain temple in Telangana Lying in shambles

*37. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the old Jain temple built with bricks in terracotta style at Alvanpalli in Jadcherla town of Telangana lies in shambles and is likely to collapse anytime;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for not making any effort for restoration and maintenance of this rare structure; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for conservation and rehabilitation of this oldest Jain Temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Jain temple at Alvanpalli in Jadcherla town of Telangana