

monuments / sites in Chhattisgarh and out of which encroachment at seven monuments/sites has been reported upon.

(c) and (d) The action has been initiated by ASI as per the Section 19 (2) of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 (amended thereon in 2010) and Rules 38 (2) of AMASR Rule 1959 by issuing show cause notices and demolition notices. Assistance of State enforcement authorities and employment of security personnel at the site have also been adopted. Further, the courts of law have also been approached in few cases for removal of encroachment.

#### **Promotion of indigenous art and craft in the country**

1785.SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives have been taken by Government to promote indigenous art and craft in the country;

(b) if so, how many beneficiaries have been identified under these initiatives in past three years; and

(c) how much funds have been allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) To protect, preserve and promote various forms of folk art, indigenous art and craft throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. For this purpose, these ZCCs organize various cultural activities, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs etc under Shilpgram Scheme.

(b) and (c) The number of beneficiaries and the funds allocated/spent under Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme and artists engaged for cultural programmes by ZCCs for these initiatives in past three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Number of beneficiaries	Funds allocated/spent
i.	2014-15	497	98.51 lakh
ii.	2015-16	425	140.28 lakh
iii.	2016-17	368	104.82 lakh