

of 18 to 25 years for undergoing advanced training in different cultural fields. Under this scheme an amount of ₹ 5,000/- p.m. is given to the selected young artists for 02 years. The amount of scholarship under this Scheme is not released State-wise but directly into the bank account of beneficiaries.

Ministry of Culture is also implementing a Scheme namely "Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes" (SPMAA) under which maximum financial assistance of ₹ 4000/- (Rupees Four Thousand Only) in the form of monthly pension is provided to old and poor artists including performing artists. The amount under this Scheme is not released State-wise but directly to the beneficiary through our service provider Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(b) The year-wise amount distributed under the above-mentioned Scheme during the last three years is as under:—

Scheme component of scholarship to young artists (SYA)

Batch Year	No. of Persons selected	Amount of Scholarship
2015-2016	282	₹ 5000/-p.m for 02 years in six monthly installments.
2016-2017	310	₹ 5000/-p.m for 02 years in six monthly installments.
2017-2018	317	₹ 5000/-p.m for 02 years in six monthly installments.

Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes

Financial Year	Allocated Fund	Expenditure incurred (in crores)	Number of persons benefitted (in crores)
2015-2016	₹ 17.75	₹ 13.86	2788
2016-2017	₹ 18.00	₹ 13.17	3376
2017-2018	₹ 14.95	₹ 15.30	3376

(c) Ministry of Culture is in the process to change its service provider from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to State Bank of India (SBI) to ensure timely disbursement of financial assistance under Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes.

Trained youngsters as tourist guides

2260. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to train youngster as

tourist guides to help generate employment and also to enhance the interest of people in archaeological sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to rope in those staff who can contribute 12-15 hours each month as volunteers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India trains tourist guides at Indian Institute of Tourism Management, Gwalior to work at tourist locations including archaeological sites. Archaeological Survey of India has framed the guide policy to perform within centrally protected monuments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Development of Tourism circuits

†2261. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the plan to develop tourism circuits based on life and journey routes of Sri Ram, Krishna and Gautam Buddha and the extent of works executed so far; and

(b) the number of people who will get employment through these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has identified Ramayana, Krishna and Buddhist Circuit as thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme. The details of projects sanctioned under above Circuits are as under:—

(₹ in crore)			
Sl. No.	State/Year of sanction	Project Name	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Uttar Pradesh (2016-17)	Development of Ramayana Circuit: Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45
2.	Uttar Pradesh (2017-18)	Development of Ramayana Circuit: Ayodhya	133.31

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.