

Disassociating archaeologists in conservation of monuments

4186. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has disassociated archaeologists from conservation of monuments since 2016-17, which is a departure from time-tested procedure since 1902, introduced by Sir John Marshall;

(b) if so, the details thereof duly considering that due to recently introduced procedure the standard of work of ASI is now not much different than PWD or CPWD even in conservation of monuments as evident from ongoing works; and

(c) whether Government has reversed the age-old practice due to some valid reasons or due to pressure from some strong professional lobby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Archaeologists have not been disassociated from conservation of monuments. Also there is no departure from the time-tested procedure. All the conservation works are being carried out under the supervision of archaeologists and archaeological engineers.

(c) Does not arise.

Classical language status for Marathi

4187. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted a report of the Committee for according status of classical language to Marathi in 2013;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in according Marathi the status of classical language when all the impediments have been cleared including disposal of writ petitions filed in Madras High Court in 2016 itself; and

(d) whether Government has fixed any timeline to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Marathi Language Department, Government of Maharashtra had submitted a report of the Marathi classical language committee headed by Prof. Rangnath Pathare, on 16.11.2013 for recognizing Marathi as a