

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

Classical language. The said Committee recommended the grant of classical status to Marathi language. However, in the light of several Writ Petitions filed by Shri R. Gandhi in the High Court of Judicature at Madras on the subject, it was decided to wait for the outcome of the said Writ Petitions. The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras has disposed off the Writ Petitions *vide* common order dated 08.08.2016 declining to interfere in the matter and disposed off all the petitions. Consequently, the revised proposal for grant of classical status to Marathi language is under consideration of this Ministry.

(d) No time-frame for granting Classical Status to Marathi Language can be fixed.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

†4188. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several policy initiatives have been taken by the Central Government to make the Indian culture popular and famous particularly among the youngsters, during the last three years, that have yielded expected positive results;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' programme is being run by Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' organised under this programme so far and further action plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) To protect, preserve and promote various forms of folk art and culture as well as make the Indian culture popular and famous 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. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis all over India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has organized Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at New Delhi (November, 2015 and October, 2016), Varanasi (December, 2016), Bengaluru and Tawang (March, 2017), Gujarat (October, 2017), Karnataka (January, 2018) and Madhya Pradesh (February, 2018). Such programmes will be organized in more States also during 2018-19.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.