

Funds for cultural activities and heritage preservation in Kerala

816. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allotted for various cultural activities and heritage protection projects in Kerala from 2015-16 to 2017-18; and

(b) whether any financial aid is granted for the renovation or construction of Ayyankali Monument at Venganoor, Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Ministry of Culture implements a number of schemes and programmes aimed at protection/preservation/development/revival and promotion of Indian culture. As the schemes are not implemented on State-wise basis, no State-wise funds are allocated.

The fund allotted for conservation and preservation activities in Kerala State by Archaeological Survey of India during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is as under:

Year	Fund allocation (₹ in crores)
2015-16	5.45
2016-17	2.85
2017-18	3.25

(b) ASI is not granting any financial aid for renovation and construction of Ayyankali monument at Venganoor.

Restoration of Konark Sun Temple by ASI

817. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has carried out restoration work on the 13th century Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the original stone carvings of the monument have been removed and replaced with plain stones as reported in the print media, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and