

(d) whether ASI has any plan to concentrate on major exploration in the north-east region to locate ancient sites and monuments for declaration as of national importance, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) 83 monuments/sites in North-East are declared as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. As per information received there are 281 monuments protected by State Governments in North-East India.

(b) to (d) Identification of new monument or site for central protection is a continuous phenomenon. Regular survey / exploration is carried out by Circle offices, Excavation Branches, Temple Survey Project, Building Survey Project and Prehistory Branch of Archaeological Survey of India. On identification of any protected monument, temple, building or archaeological sites, the same is recommended for Central protection by the Inspecting Office. As on date Badarpur Fort, District Karimganj Assam has been identified for declaration as of National importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 Further, Sibsagar in Assam is one of the iconic site identified for development and onsite Museum.

Speedy clearance for film shoots at monuments

182. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for speedy clearance for film shoots at monuments and at iconic sites in the country; and

(b) the demands of the film industry and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) All permissions for film shooting is given online. The applicant uploads the details on the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) portal along with necessary documents. Once the application is received, it is processed immediately and permission is issued within the shortest possible time. In addition to this ASI's online application system has been integrated with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)'s Film Facilitation

Office (FFO) website www.ffa.gov.in which enables filmmakers to apply for permission to film in ASI owned monuments by creating an account on the FFO web portal. It is a single window facilitation and clearance mechanism to make the permission process more efficient and quicker.

Establishment of new science museums

†183. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any intention to set up new science museums in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and place-wise; and
- (c) the details of probable expenditure on this, and by when these science museums would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NCSM has taken up projects for setting up of new science centres under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) of Govt. of India as per list attached at Statement (*See* below).

(c) Information incorporated in the table provided as at Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.