

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Ttile: Regarding preservation of rare manuscript and provide adequate infrastructure and staff for the work in the Oriental Research Institute, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I would like to raise a matter which does not concern my State but of course, it is of national importance.

The Oriental Research Institute, the only repository of rare manuscripts in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, has become a pale shadow of its past and today stands as a symbol of neglect. The ORI was established by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam in 1939 but it had transferred ORI to Sri Venkateswara University after its establishment in 1956. It was the ORI that deciphered poet saint Annamacharya's literature when copper plates were unearthed from the Tirumala temple. Even the inscriptions on Tirumala temple walls were deciphered by its then curator Sadhu Subrahmanya Shastri. Various acclaimed scholars were associated with the ORI but eighty years after its establishment, the premier institute is not visited by any scholar any more and the 65,000 rare manuscripts face grave risk of termite attack and eventual destruction. Only 40 per cent of the manuscripts that are palm leaves have been digitalised as the staff strength of 35 has fallen to just two assistant professors today. On the other hand, Odisha State Museum which was originally founded in 1932 and started operation in the present building in 1960 has made 40,000 rare palm leaf manuscripts online for the use of research scholars across the world.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to protect such rare manuscripts not only in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha but also across the country and to provide adequate infrastructure and staff to ensure their availability online for the use of research scholars across the world.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: डॉ. राजदीप राय को श्री भर्तृहरि महताब द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।

श्री एच. बसंत कुमार जी ।

श्री सुभाष चन्द्र बहेड़िया ।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सुभाष जी एक मिनट रुक जाइए

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : He is sitting as per his division number. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I have a pillar in front of me. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : हम इसकी व्यवस्था करेंगे ।

SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR (KANYAKUMARI): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for allowing me to participate on a very important and sensitive issue.

Sir, water is precious....(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप माननीय सदस्य को डिस्टर्ब न करें ।

श्री सुभाष चन्द्र बहेड़िया जी ।

