

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2095
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS
Bauri Smt. Susmita;Khan Shri Sunil

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a museum of ancient manuscripts (Punthi Sala) which was set up in 1920 is presently being run by private initiative of "Centre for Study and Documentation of Rarh Culture" in Vadul Village of Bankura District of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, whether eminent researchers and scholars from various Indian Universities as well as from abroad frequently visit this Museum for research and documentation; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to preserve these ancient manuscripts in Sanskrit, Bengali and Vaisnav Literature?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Mission for Manuscripts has offered to provide the assistance for cataloguing the precious manuscripts collection of the institution as well as preventive conservation treatment through the local Manuscripts Resource Centre. The representatives of the Museum were invited by the Calcutta University, which is the Mission's Manuscripts Resource Centre in West Bengal, for an Orientation Course on Manuscripts at Bishnupur held on 18-19 April 2005.