

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1609
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
150th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government remembered the freedom fighters of Independence Movement on the 150th anniversary of the First Freedom Struggle;
- (b) if so, the name of the freedom fighters remembered and if not, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that such type of various freedom struggles had taken place ever before 1857; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b), (c)& (d): Government of India has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister for commemoration of 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857. A National Implementation Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development for implementation of the programmes and activities in commemoration of the event. The States/UTs have also been requested to constitute State Level Committees for taking up programmes to commemorate the event in a befitting manner. The inaugural function was organized at Lal Quila on 11th May, 2007 and the commemoration will continue for a year.

A Calendar of Events has also been prepared in consultation with the Committee of Historians in Indian Council of Historical Research and circulated to all the States/UTs for organizing functions on the dates associated with important freedom fighters and other important occasions connected with freedom struggle. The above Calendar of Events which includes some pre-1857 events as well, is only suggestive and States/UTs are free to organize more events to remember freedom fighters with a special focus on the events which took place in their areas. A number of other programmes are also being undertaken to disseminate information about the events and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters, known and unknown, to achieve Independence.