

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4125
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
TAGORE LITERATURE AWARD
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sahitya Academy has instituted a literature award in the memory of Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the Sahitya Academy to institute a literature award in collaboration with Multi-National Companies; and
- (d) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (d) An MoU has been signed by the Sahitya Akademi with M/s Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd., a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at New Delhi. Under this MoU, Sahitya Akademi has agreed to undertake the selection of awardees for the "Tagore Literature Award", promulgated by the said company to promote Indian literary works and writers. The MoU has been signed for a period of six years, within which period eight Tagore Literature Awards will be given every year so as to cover, twice over, all the 24 languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi. These awards are different from the Sahitya Akademi Awards in vogue.

The MoU was initiated by the Korean Embassy in New Delhi to further Indo-Korea cultural relations and was forwarded by the Ministry of Culture to the Sahitya Akademi, which is empowered, under its Constitution, to promote cultural exchanges with other countries.

Before signing the MoU, the proposal was considered by the Executive Board of Sahitya Akademi and modalities of the Award were worked out by a Committee specially constituted by the Akademi for this purpose. The MoU has since been discussed and approved by the Executive Board and the General Council of Sahitya Akademi.