

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6418

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MATERIALS

Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvvaraya Swamy

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ancient written materials like edicts, manuscripts, mural paintings including Vedas, Upanishads, Hindi and Urdu Ramayana, Buddhists, Jains and Islamic philosophies, memoirs of ancient and modern travellers are invaluable heritage of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the condition of preservation undertaken on the matter;

(c) the details of awareness programme undertaken so as to imbibe its heritage value among the people during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the amount of funds allocated and spent during the above period, year-wise?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) National Archives of India :-

1. The archival material in the form of documents, records, manuscripts etc. are lying scattered all over the country in various libraries, archives, NGOs, institutions, as well as with private collectors, who are individually responsible for their preservation.

2. The National Archives of India, however operates, two schemes of financial assistance to support the preservation efforts of these archival material lying in different collections. These schemes are:

A. Scheme of Financial Assistance for "Preservation of Manuscripts/Rare Books." for NGO's / Individuals etc.

B. Scheme of "Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Archival Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums"

(3) National Archives of India has in its own custody 2,442 manuscripts dealing with various subjects like religion, philosophy, theology, literature, memoirs etc. All the manuscripts in the collection of National Archives of India are well preserved.

National Mission for Manuscripts:-

(1) Out of 30 lakh identified and documented manuscripts (by NMM), by the end of the year 2009-10, nearly 1,80,000 manuscripts have been given preventive and curative conservation treatments.

All the conserved manuscripts are in good condition and the rest are being actively taken care of.

(C) National Archives of India:-

The financial assistance schemes for preservation of archival heritage are publicized through advertisements in leading newspapers of the country as well as on National Archives of India's website. Letters are also sent to the Head of State Archives and other Archival institutions to propagate their schemes within their jurisdictions.

Besides, the National Archives of India also undertakes regular programmes for increasing the archival awareness amongst the masses. These efforts include:

Conducting of workshops/seminars,

rendering technical advice on conservation and preservation of archival material

bringing out publication on conservation/preservation techniques

organizing training courses on conservation/preservation/

supplying conservation material on payment basis, and

exhibitions on various themes from archival materials lying in different collections.

National Mission for Manuscripts:-

The details of awareness programme undertaken so as to imbibe its heritage value among the people during the last three years and the current year are as under: -

2007-2008:

Initiated a project to establish two field labs at Guwahati and Leh

Evolved Basic Standards for Conservation of Manuscripts & Preventive conservation

Organised 10 workshops on conservation, 12 public lectures and 3 workshops on manuscriptology

4 research projects initiated in collaboration with NRLC

2008-2009:

Organised 4 workshops on conservation, 12 public lectures, 6 workshops on manuscriptology

2009-2010:

Organised 15 workshops on manuscriptology, 19 public lectures, three seminars and 7 workshops on manuscriptology

(d) National Archives of India

The details of the funds allocated/ sanctioned are as follows:-

Amount allocated

2007-08- Rs.1 Cr (Under RE Plan)

2008-09- Rs.1 Cr (-do-)

2009-10- Rs.60 lakhs (-do-)

Amount Sanctioned:

2007-08. Rs.49,06,000/-

2008-09- Rs.63,68,250/-

2009-10- Rs.53,79,375/-

National Mission for Manuscripts:-

The amount of fund allocated and spent is as under:

Amount allocated (in crores)

2007-08- Rs. 6.37 crores

2008-09- Rs.7.83 crores

2009-10- NIL

Amount spent (in crores)

2007-08- Rs. 4.81Cr

2008-09- Rs.2.92 Cr

2009-10- Rs.4.92 Cr (out of unspent balance from the previous years)