

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6585
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
DESTRUCTION OF RARE BOOKS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rare books and manuscripts are recently destroyed in a blaze at the Lalit Kala Academy, Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the estimated loss incurred thereto; and
- (c) steps taken to offset the irreparable loss and the preventive steps taken to ensure such incidents do not occur in future?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Some rare books have been recently destroyed in a blaze at the Lalit Kala Academy campus, Delhi during an exhibition organized by Delhi Public Library.
- (b) The accidental fire engulfed the entire structure of Exhibition and books were destroyed. The estimated loss has not been calculated. A Committee of Experts has been asked to evaluate cost of books destroyed in the fire.
- (c) The Committee of Experts is assisting in procuring/resurrecting copies of the books. As a preventive measure, only photocopies of rare books may be displayed in future Exhibitions.