

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3349
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
PRESERVATION OF MANUSCRIPTS
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing policy of the Government for preservation and conservation of the manuscript heritage of the country and for maintenance of memorials;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the various State Governments to provide financial assistance for the preservation of manuscripts of historical and cultural importance of their respective States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-Wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government for the protection and preservation of important and valuable manuscripts in the country, particularly in the States of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE(KUMARI SELJA)

a)

1. Government of India has set up a National Mission for Manuscripts to facilitate conservation and preservation of manuscripts through training, awareness and financial support for the manuscript heritage of the country.

2. National Archives of India, under Ministry of Culture is the nodal agency empowered to preserve, conserve the documentary heritage of India including public records and manuscripts. It also operates the following two schemes of financial assistance for preservation of archival and manuscript heritage:

i) Schemes of Financial Assistance for Preservation of Manuscripts/Rare Books." For NGO's/Individuals etc.

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

3. Regarding maintenance of memorials, Ministry of Culture operates a Scheme, 'Grant-in-aid to Voluntary organizations/societies for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials'.

b) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received by National Archive of India, for financial assistance under the two assistance schemes mentioned at part (a) (2) above.

c) State wise details of the financial assistance provided for the preservation of manuscript of historical and cultural importance by National Archive of India, are at Annexure 'A'.

d) In order to preserve and conserve the Manuscripts Heritage of India, the National Mission for Manuscripts has established 50 Manuscripts Conservation Centre (MCC) all over India. Financial assistance is being provided to these centres according to their needs as also the conservation work done by them. In addition to these grants, training programmes in the shape of Preventive Conservation Workshops, Curative Conservation Workshops on Manuscripts on rare materials, creation of resource pool for conservators etc. are also done.

The schemes of National Archives of India are publicized through advertisement in National/Local Newspapers, issuing circulars to all States/Union Territories including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan as also through the website. (www.nationalarchives.nic.in).