

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
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 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, along with 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 URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

- (a) (i) Ministry of Culture operates a Scheme of financial assistance for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials.
- (ii) Two schemes for preservation of documentary heritage across the country are being operated by National Archives of India (NAI), an attached office of the Ministry of Culture. These schemes are:-
- a. Scheme of Financial Assistance for Preservation of Manuscripts/Rare Books to registered Voluntary Organizations/Individual etc.
 - b. Scheme of Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Archival Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums.
- (iii) Government of India has also established National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) in 2003 vide Gazette Notification dated the 5th February, 2003, with the following mandate:-
- i. To facilitate conservation and preservation of manuscripts through training, awareness and financial support;
 - ii. To document and catalogue Indian manuscripts, wherever they may be, maintain accurate and up-to-date information about them and the conditions under which they may be consulted;
 - iii. To promote ready access to these manuscripts through publication, both in book form as well as electronic form;
 - iv. To boost scholarship and research in the study of Indian languages and manuscriptology; and
 - v. To build up a National Digital Manuscripts Library.
- (b) & (c) State-wise details during each of the last three years and the current year under the scheme of financial assistance to State/UT Archival Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums by NAI are at Annexure – I.
- State-wise details of grants released by NMM through their Manuscripts Resource Centers and Manuscripts Conservation Centers are given at Annexures – II & III.
- (d) The schemes are widely publicized by NAI through advertisement in National/local newspapers covering the whole country including these states, besides, by issue of circular to all the State/UT Governments and also through the website www.nationalarchives.nic.in, inviting organizations/individuals to submit their applications (through the state level Screening Committees/Archives) for financial assistance. Similarly, for documentation, conservation and other activities, NMM has established 57 Manuscripts Resource Centers (MRCs) and 50 Manuscripts Conservation Centers (MCCs) all over the country including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan to whom grants are given. NMM also organizes training programmes in Conservation and workshops in Manuscriptology and Palaeography.