

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:657
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
MEMORIAL FOR MUNSHI PREMCHAND
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Munshi Premchand;
- (b) if so, whether the Government had proposed to construct a memorial, research centre and library in honour of his memory;
- (c) if so, whether the Government had laid the foundation stone for the said memorial at his native village of Lamhi in Varanasi region of Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop and restore the ancestral house of Premchand as well as the proposed research centre and library?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 657 FOR 22.05.2012.

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture was constituted to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Munshi Premchand from 31st July 2005 to 31st July 2006. In the meeting of this Committee held on 3.11.2005, it was decided that Banaras Hindu University should take over the Memorial and Research Centre. An amount of Rs. 2 Crores was sanctioned to Banaras Hindu University on 30th March 2007. The foundation stone of Munshi Premchand Memorial Research and Study Centre has been laid by the Uttar Pradesh Government at village Lamhi, Varanasi on 28th July, 2011. The construction work has been awarded to the CPWD by the Banaras Hindu University about a year back but due to non allotment of land measuring 0.249 acres by the Uttar Pradesh Government, the work could not be undertaken at the site.