

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:573

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

POPULARISING MUSEUMS

Sugumar Shri K. ;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make the museums, people centric, and if so, the steps being taken in this regard;
- (b) the reasons for pendency of the proposal received from Madhya Pradesh regarding upgradation of Rani Durgavati Museum at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to close some of the museums across the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether despite having an extraordinary collection of artifacts, Indian museums are not visited by a large number of people; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to popularise these museums?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 573 FOR REPLY ON 07.05.2013.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 573 FOR REPLY ON 07.05.2013.

(a) Museums under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture are taking several steps for modernization and towards becoming people centric. Some of these steps are as given below:

- Development and modernization of galleries.
- Installation of touch screen kiosks for dissemination of knowledge to the visitors.
- Introduction of audio guides.
- Improvement in display of museum objects.
- Publication of guide books of the museums.
- Conducting lectures, seminars, workshops in museum premises for the visitors.
- Celebration of important days by involving public participation.
- In an effort to improve visitors' facilities, National Museum has initiated a "Volunteer Guide programme."
- Digitization of collections and development of websites.

(b) Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted 19 proposals including the proposal for upgradation of Rani Durgavati Museum at Jabalpur for financial assistance entailing a total cost of Rs. 34.14 crores. On the recommendation of the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh was asked to prioritize 3 museums out of 19 proposals submitted by them and a seed money of Rs. 1 Crore was sanctioned to enable them to undertake preliminary activities including preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for the 3 prioritized museums. Subsequently, State Government forwarded the list of 3 prioritized museums. However, the proposal of Rani Durgavati Museum was not amongst the list prioritized by the State Government. Hence, no proposal/detailed project report for upgradation of Rani Durgavati Museum has been received from Madhya Pradesh Government.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d)and (e) The museums under the Ministry of Culture are visited by a large number of visitors. These Museums regularly conduct different programmes like exhibitions, workshops, seminars and lectures aimed at improving public contact.