

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1864
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HERITAGE SITES
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Commission for Heritage Sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its functions and the time by which the said Commission is likely to be set up;
- (c) whether the Government organizes various programmes/events to promote the rich cultural heritage of the country and to create awareness amongst the masses in general and students of schools and colleges, in particular; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof including major events/programmes conducted during each of the last three years and the current year along with the funds allocated/released and expenditure incurred thereon State/UT and programme-wise and the achievement made as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) CULTURE & TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b) The National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 26.2.2009. It was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) for examination. The PSC examined the Bill and made certain recommendations/suggestions. However, in 2010 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act was enacted and the National Monument Authority was set up under the Act in 2011. In view of these developments the provisions of the revised Bill are being examined/reviewed in consultation with various stake holders. As such no time frame can be given for setting up National Commission for Heritage Sites at this stage.

The functions of Heritage Sites Commission as per the proposed Bill include:-

tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.

frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.

suggest appropriate amendments to the existing legislations.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) There are various organizations (attached, subordinate and autonomous) under M/o Culture. These organize various events as per their mandate.

However, at the grass root level predominantly Zonal Cultural Centres and 3 Academies (SahityaAkademi, SangeetNatak Academy, Lalit Kala Akademi) organize such events and functions. The funds released and expenditure incurred by ZCCs during last 3 years as well as the expenditure incurred by Akademies during last 3 years is given at Annexure-I.