

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2404

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014

CELEBRATION OF BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BASAVESHWARA

Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Lord Basaveshwara was one of the great revolutionary thinkers and social reformers in Karnataka during the 12th century;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to celebrate the birth anniversary of such a great soul;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Basaveshwara or Basavaraja studied in a Shaivite School at Sangameshwara, Kudala, where he developed spiritual and religious views. He started working as Chief Superintendent of Treasury, in the court of Kalachuri king Bijjala – a feudal vassal of the Chalukya. Later on, he became Prime Minister in the court of the king Bijjala. In 1153 A.D. when the conflict with the Bijjala king assumed a grave turn, Basaveshwara left his services and established the Anubhava Mantapa (a spiritual parliament) and started writing poems, vachanas, etc. He was an adherent of Shiva, ever absorbed in meditation. The prime objective of his life was to reform the religion and society on spiritual basis. He worked for eradicating untouchability and tried to establish equality among all.

(c) (d) & (e) The Government has not received any proposal to celebrate his birth anniversary.