

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1125
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
AID FOR HERITAGE PROGRAMME
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have sought financial assistance from the UNESCO under its preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage programme for the propagation of Vedas;
- (b) if so, the amount of assistance sought for;
- (c) whether UNESCO have agreed to release the desired amount of funds; and
- (d) the manner in which the funds provided by UNESCO are to be utilized for the propagation of Vedas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) A proposal of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) seeking financial assistance for preparing a candidature file on 'The Oral Tradition of the Vedas and Vedic Heritage' under the UNESCO programme 'Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral & Intangible Heritage of Humanity' has been submitted to UNESCO.
- (b) US\$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand).
- (c) UNESCO has since released US\$ 18,000 to IGNCA for preparing the candidature file.
- (d) The funds provided by UNESCO are to be utilized for preparing the candidature file. This includes undertaking surveys; organizing meetings of experts, scholars and practitioners; preparation of audio-video documentation, preparation of the candidature file, and an action plan.