

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1248
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
FIRST FREEDOM STRUGGLE
Hussain Shri Anwar

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to include and popularise the contribution of North Eastern Region to the Freedom Struggle by way of celebrating the historic 150 years of India's First Freedom Struggle ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated to DAVP for this purpose;
- (d) whether the Songs and Drama Division has any plans to popularise the immortal patriotic songs of Assam to inspire the new generation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a)&(b): Government of India has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister and a National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to chalk out the programmes and activities for commemoration of 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857 in a befitting manner. The inaugural function was held on 11th May, 2007. A calendar of events was circulated to all States and Union Territories by Ministry of Culture. The calendar of events is suggestive and the State Governments are encouraged to take up other programmes also with special focus on the events, which may have taken place in the area.

(c): As part of the commemorative programme of 150th year of First War of Independence 1857, the Government is implementing an exhibition project on a mobile train, with DAVP as the implementing agency. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs.14.84 crore inclusive of all participating Ministries/ Organizations.

(d)to(f): Guwahati Regional Centre of Song and Drama Division has prepared new programme packages on 150th year of First War of Independence. Twenty two registered cultural troupes and two departmental/empanelled troupes were deployed with the newly developed programme packages on the above theme. So far, 130 programmes have already been presented in coordination with Nehru Yuva Kendra and District Administrations of the concerned Districts of Assam and Manipur.