

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:147

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) The steps taken to promote dramas and art form in the country;
- (b) The steps taken to improve the functioning of the National School of Drama including the details of future planning;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding alleged irregularities in the National School of Drama (NSD);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): The National School of Drama is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India. It was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959 as one of its constituent units. In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, fully financed by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. As per the Memorandum of Association, the School was created for development and training in dramatics in the field of acting, direction, stage techniques and management/radio/ television, children theatre and script writing. Also to establish high standards of theatre education in India and for this purpose develop and liaison and association with colleges, institutes and universities. Moreover, its mandate is to conduct and promote research in classical, traditional and modern drama in India and abroad and to collect valuable material and forms in theatre production

(b): For improving the functioning of NSD a Broad based Committee was established to look into the Vision Paper and plan action for restructuring of National School of Drama. The recommendation of the Broad based Committee has been received.

(c): Yes Sir.

(d) In the complaint the following points have been raised:-

1. Non-availability of syllabus in the NSD;
2. The faculties are making experiments and getting remunerations for small works they are performing in addition to their duties;
3. Giving grants to their own NGOs;
4. No one has been allowed to become the Director of the NSD except faculty members, particularly with reference to present selection of the Director, NSD;
5. Due to the number of festivals being organized where faculty members are totally involved with the result students have become idle and there are many complaints of misdeeds in the hostels;
6. Financial irregularities and misuse of funds.

(e) The matter is being examined.