

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **A REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF STATUTORY AND AUTONOMOUS BODIES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

#### **MUSEUMS**

Museums are repositories of Nation's valuable treasures. They play a positive and important role in modeling people's tastes and making them aware of the history and creative talent available in India. We are striving to change Museums into multi-cultural complexes engaged in promotion of art, education, research and appreciation. The Ministry reviews the performance of these museums regularly and provides necessary guidance and support. Of late the emphasis is being given on utilizing information technology in display and documentation and modernization to international standards. Museums are also playing important roles in reaching masses and children through their cultural and educational activities. A review of performance of various museums during 2005-06 is as follows.

#### **NATIONAL MUSEUM INSTITUTE OF HISTORY OF ART, CONSERVATION AND MUSEOLOGY (NMI), NEW DELHI**

NMI is established as a society and declared as a Deemed university in 1989 offering courses and awarding degrees for M.A. and Ph.D in the fields of History of Art, Conservation and Museology. Only university in India solely devoted to the museum related subjects. During 2005-06 the institute admitted 37 students in M.A & Ph.D courses and 199 students in short term courses. The institute also organized seminars, conferences, workshops, and special lectures. Various research projects were undertaken and regular publications were brought out. Library was upgraded, Internet through Wi Fi has been provided.

#### **INDIAN MUSEUM, KOLKATA**

The Indian Museum, Kolkata, was set up in accordance with the Indian Museum Act 1910, is the largest and oldest institution of its kind in India. During 2005-06 modernizations, development of galleries of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology sections were undertaken. Fully computerized Documentation system with photographs was initiated. Security arrangements were modernized and strengthened. Development of preservation unit was undertaken. In-service training courses, national/international seminars, mobile and traveling exhibitions, publications, production of documentary films, outdoor workshops were organized as part of educational and cultural activities. This museum has been designated as a nodal museum of Govt. of India for development of museums in the North- Eastern region. As a part of this, Rs.680.41 lakhs has been incurred so far for development of various museums in the North-Eastern States.

#### **ALLAHABAD MUSEUM ALLAHABAD**

The Allahabad Museum was established in 1931 under the Allahabad Municipal Board. It was declared an Institution of National Importance in 1985. During 2005-06 process of renovation of building was initiated, library and conservation lab was upgraded. Early sculpture Gallery, Freedom Movement Gallery and Natural History Galleries were renovated. Art objects were acquired, new publications were brought out. Art exhibitions were organized. Various educational and cultural activities were

undertaken. Replicas were fabricated for establishing Museum corners in private schools and colleges and Jawahar Navodayas Vidyalayas. Reserve collection was reorganized. Photography and documentation work was done.

### **SALARJUNG MUSEUM, HYDERABAD**

The Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad came into existence on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1951. It is an Institution of National Importance declared by an Act of Parliament in 1961. During 2005-06 conservation work of building and its modernization/renovation was undertaken. Far Eastern and Porcelain, Art in enamelware galleries were reorganized. Stores are being modernized. Library was upgraded and Manuscripts were conserved. About 15 exhibitions were organized as a part of cultural and educational activities. Around 29600 art objects were computerized. Digitization of rare and precious library books is being undertaken. Nizams jewellery exhibition was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2005 with utmost security.

### **VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL, KOLKATA**

Victoria Memorial Hall an institute of national importance was set up under Victoria memorial Act of 1903 with particular emphasis on indo-British history. During 2005-06 preservation, restoration and conservation of art objects and documentation, cataloguing and verification of art objects was undertaken as a major activity. Various museums were financially assisted for taking developmental activities. A temporary exhibition on "Passage to India, yesterday and today" was organized at Rome, Italy. Various other exhibitions were organized in India. Central Hall, Portrait Gallery, Entrance Hall and first floor galleries being modernized. Conservation work of art objects and modernization of galleries of some museum in the North-Eastern States were undertaken as a special initiative towards north-east. Seminars, workshops, organization of art camps and production of a documentary film on Rabindranath Tagore was undertaken under educational and cultural programmes.

### **LIBRARIES**

There are two autonomous bodies in the Library sector under the Ministry of Culture, namely the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and the Delhi Public Library (DPL). The RRRLF has discharged its functions commendably during the year under review. Secretary (Culture) has been officiating as the Chairman of the Foundation and the Board is in place. During the year under review RRRLF expanded its activities by taking up a collaborative programme of strengthening rural libraries along with Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). The Book Selection Policy of the RRRLF has also been streamlined. The study was conducted by commissioning ORGMARG to evaluate the effectiveness of the various schemes of the Foundation. Based on the findings of the study, RRRLF has introduced certain changes in their relatively backward States by increasing the Foundation's percentage of assistance. The States have benefited from these revised norms. Over and above this, a new initiative of setting up 'children's' corner' in public libraries has also been launched by the RRRLF with a view to encouraging use of libraries by children. The Ministry has been continuously monitoring the activities and performance of the RRRLF. The functioning of DPL has also been closely studied and evaluated by the Ministry. This Library has not been able to discharge its obligations effectively for the past few years owing to managerial inadequacies. With a view to diagnosing maladies of DPL a three-member Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri M C Gupta. The study was

aimed at identifying the administrative and policy bottlenecks that prevent DPL from functioning effectively. The Committee has come out with very exhaustive findings and suggestions. This report is under the active consideration of the Ministry.

### **AKADEMIES**

The Ministry of Culture has three National Academies and the National School of Drama (NSD) functioning under it. The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), Sahitya Akademi (SA) and Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA), which have completed fifty years have undertaken a self-evaluation of their various programmes and made necessary corrections to keep pace with the modern times. The Ministry has been continuously reviewing the performance of these institutions. Necessary administrative and financial discipline has been ensured in the functioning of these organizations. All the institutions have full fledged General Council and Executive Committee and their functioning has been in order. In keeping with the changing trends in the global cultural relationships, NSD and LKA particularly have undertaken activities in which other countries have begun to participate, as in the case of the 'Theatre Utsav' of NSD and the '11<sup>th</sup> Triennale' of the LKA.

### **ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES (ZCCS)**

The activities of the seven ZCCs were closely monitored and reviewed from time to time by the Ministry. In order to enhance their income for undertaking programmes Ministry has provided Rs. 5 crores each towards their corpus. The schemes for which the Ministry directly releases funds, like NCEP, Guru-Shishya Parampara, Theatre Rejuvenation, documentation were effectively implemented during the year under review. The overall performance of the ZCCs has been quite impressive during the year under review

### **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES, LADAKH**

The Institute plays a very important role in Development of Buddhist Culture in Ladakh otherwise also predominantly a Buddhist place. The forces of modernism are bringing traditional values under pressure. The total population of Ladakh is approx. 2.5 lakhs and the area is 44,000 sq. Km. In such a large area, the population density is approx. 5-6 per sq. km. The role of the institution which is having 1500 students on its feeder schools roll can be well imagined. The area borders China as well as Pakistan and is not only strategically very important but sensitive as well. In year 1995-96, Ladakh Autonomous Council came into existence because of distinct cultural identity of Ladakh region. The Board of Management of CIBS, Leh is having the most eminent Buddhist personalities from the Ladakh region and is thus microcosm of Ladakhi Culture. There is a Library of 2500 books and Institute has 25 publications to its credit. It also publishes journals.

### **CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER TIBETAN STUDIES, VARANASI**

A dynamic and vibrant institution caters to mostly Tibetan students and students from mountainous region. It was awarded 5 stars rating by M/o HRD in year 2002. Monks/Scholars passed out from the Institute are holding important positions in a large number of Buddhist Centres all over the world. They also occupy distinguished position in a number of foreign universities. It has a Large Library- well known in

academic circle for its collection. It attracts Students from countries where Tibetan Buddhism has roots i.e. Mangolia, some republics of Russia and China.

#### **NAV LANALANDA MAHAVIHARA**

A number of dignitaries have visited this place. Recently His Excellency Shri A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, President of India had announced establishment of a Peace University by upgrading the existing Mahavihara to International standard. The place is integral part of Buddhist pilgrim circuit. Department of Tourism is also spending funds to make it high profile. Chinese are especially interested in Nalanda because of its association with Xuan Xang and with the revival of Buddhism in China lot of visitors are expected in this place.

#### **MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES**

The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata is an autonomous organization fully funded by the Government of India. The working of the Institute has been quite impressive during the year under review. The ancestral house of Maulana at 5, Ashraf Mistri lane, Kolkata has been renovated and Azad Memorabilia Museum has been set up there. The Institute has also been shifted to this place. The construction of Institute's building at Salt Lake has also been approved and an amount of Rs. 193.00 lakhs has been deposited with the CPWD for taking up the construction work.

#### **GANDHI SMRITI & DARSHAN SAMITI(GSDS)**

The Society of the Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti is headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Dr. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee is the Vice-Chairman of the Society. The working of the GSDS during the year under review has been satisfactory. The renovation of the GSDS Complex undertaken by CPWD has been completed except the electrical and horticulture works.

#### **NEHRU MEMORIAL & MUSEUM LIBRARY (NMML)**

NMML has been headed by the Minister for Culture during the year under review. However, the Institution does not have a full time Director. The formalities of appointing a full time Director is under progress. However, the Institution worked well during the year by enhancing its acquisition of private papers and increasing the number of recordings of oral history. Besides, the NMML also brought out important publications, which include a comprehensive volume on 'Gender Equity'.