

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3215**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

**DICTIONARY OF MARTYRS OF INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

**3215. SHRI M.K RAGHAVAN:**

Will the **MINISTER OF CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government had prepared and released Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947) highlighting the sacrificed held by the identified martyrs;
- (b) if so, the back ground to prepare the contents of this dictionary and the institutes/establishments associated with the preparation of this dictionary
- (c) the method of authentication done by the government on the contents and names and activities carried by these martyrs for publication of this dictionary; and
- (d) the Martyrs identified in Kerala in this dictionary and the details and events leading to martyrdom of these personalities?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM**  
**(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

- (a) Yes, Sir Government of India commemorated 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First War of Independence in 2007. One of the projects sanctioned under the commemoration was preparation of National Register of Martyrs, subsequently called the "Dictionary of Martyrs". The project envisaged inclusion of names of all martyrs along with biographical notes on them during the period from 1857 to 1947 and covering the entire territory of India. The Ministry of Culture arranged the release of publications in March 2019 and funded the project. This work was entrusted to ICHR which is an autonomous body under Education Ministry which researched and compiled it.
- (b) An advisory Committee comprised of historians and representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Archives of India decided that the project will produce a series of volumes entitled Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947), containing brief biographical notes based to the extent possible on the archival and other contemporary documents. The Committee also accepted for purpose of this project, a definition of the term 'martyr' and

the recognized list of freedom movements which the Government of India adopted in 1980 to facilitate the distribution of awards and pensions.

Further, the Zonal Committees including (respective State Archives) were constituted and historians were nominated as coordinators under whom a local research team gathered information in every state.

- (c) All the entries in these volumes contains sources at the bottom of every write-ups that include Archival documents (official and non-official), contemporary newspapers, private papers, contemporary Congress committees reports and the Government (at centre and state level) publications like Who's Who of Indian Martyrs (published by Ministry of Education in 1969, 1972 and 1973 on occasion of Gandhi Centenary Celebrations), secondary sources like books, journals, articles, etc.
- (d) Martyrs belonging to Kerala have been covered in volume 5 of the series with necessary details.