

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2025

PUDUCHERRY RECORDS CENTRE

3901. DR. D RAVI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to digitize the historical records, manuscripts and archival collections at the Puducherry Record Centre and make them accessible to the public online, if so, the details along with the timeline for implementation;
- (b) the details of the amount sanctioned along with the initiatives being taken by the Government to further develop and modernise the Puducherry Record Centre, including infrastructure upgrades and preservation techniques;
- (c) the details of the ongoing efforts to acquire additional private archival collections, palm leaf manuscripts or historical documents to expand the Puducherry Record Centre's repository; and
- (d) the details of the steps that have been taken by the Government to promote research and academic engagement with the archival records stored at the Puducherry Record Centre, along with any new initiatives to enhance accessibility for scholars and researchers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) : Yes. The work of digitization of historical records, manuscripts and archival collections available in the Puducherry Record Centre of National Archives of India has already been commenced from 28th March 2024. The timeline for implementation of this work is two years. This whole value chain starts from the process of preservation, conservation and digitization to make it available to the end user.
- (b) : Every year, the infrastructure is developed in Puducherry Record Centre and new preservation techniques are being implemented to modernize the Record Centre in a scientific manner. Research Rooms, Conservation Rooms, Digitization Rooms, all Repositories are being modernized from time to time. The details of the amount sanctioned to CPWD, Puducherry Division for carrying out the infrastructure development of Puducherry Record Centre is given at Annexure.

(c) : Puducherry Record Centre has a huge private archival collection, as detailed hereunder :

S. No.	Name Of The Private Archival Collection	Inclusive Years
1.	Ramanathapuram Samasthanam Records	1800-1900
2.	Purushotham Reddiar Papers	1944-1964
3.	Ramasamy Collection	1884-1962
4.	Saraswathi Subbiah Collection	1936-1995
5.	Clement Eswar Collection	1960-2005
6.	Arivudaya Nambi Collection	1933
7.	Nandi Varman Collection	1967-2017
8.	Swaminathan Collection	1888-2002
9.	Naga Sengamala Thayar Collection	Pre-1954

Efforts have been made to acquire the following additional private archival collections, palm leaf manuscripts and historical documents through donation from the private individuals/organizations:

S. No.	Name of the Private Archival Collection to be acquired	Remarks
1.	Late Shri. Thirumudi Sethuraman Collection	Reputed Historian, Puducherry
2.	Late Smt. Mathana Kalyani Collection	Historian and Writer, Puducherry
3.	Late Dr. K. A. Gunasekaran Collection	Retd. Prof, Drama Artist, Puducherry
4.	Late Dr. Arivinambi Collection	Retd. Dean, Dept. of Tamil, Puducherry University
5.	Late Shri. Sundara Shanmugam Collection	Writer, Puducherry
6.	Late Shri. Pudevai Dasan Collection	Drama Artist, Puducherry
7.	Late Dr. L. Thangappa Collection	Writer & Recipient of two times Sahitya Academy Award winner, Puducherry
8.	Late Thiyagu Mudaliar Collection	Historian and Philanthropist
9.	Dr. Padmanabhan collection	Retd. PRO, Information and Publicity Dept., Puducherry
10.	Late Dr. S. Murugesan Collection	Retd. Professor in French, Writer & Historian, Puducherry
11.	Sh. David Annusamy Collection	Retired Judge, Puducherry

(d) : NAI has initiated digitization of more than 70 lakh pages of the archival holdings of Puducherry Record Centre for uploading these on the web portal of Abhilekh Patal. NAI aims to complete digitization so that any user can locate the Meta data. Further, scholars and researchers can requisition all the records and access them on the web portal of Abhilekh Patal.

Annexure referred in reply to part (b) of L.S.U.Q. No. 3901 for 24th March, 2025

S. No.	Nature of Work	Year	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Providing false ceiling work including replacement of existing electrical fitting with false ceiling type fitting in this NAI Record Centre, Puducherry	2023-24	Rs.40,81,000/-
2.	Replacement of existing conventional electrical fitting with energy efficient LED fittings in various locations of NAI Record Centre, Puducherry	2023-24	Rs.13,10,992/-
3.	Providing 40 KWP grid tied rooftop solar power plant on terrace of NAI Record Centre, Puducherry	2023-24	Rs.26,19,971/-
4.	Supplying, Installation and Testing of new split type AC units at NAI Record Centre, Puducherry	2024-25	Rs.5,52,326/-
5.	Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance of E & M installations at NAI Record Centre, Puducherry	2022-23 2023-24 2024-25	Rs.17,07,547/- Rs.18,15,600/- Rs.15,40,549/-
6.	Providing wooden furniture facilities (Round study table) in the Research Room of NAI Record Centre, Puducherry – Work has been undertaken by Puducherry Khadi and Village Industries Board.	2023-24	Rs.4,83,564/-