

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635**  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

**ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRES FOR PROMOTION OF  
FOLK ART AND CULTURE**

† 635. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several schemes are being run by the Government for the safety, promotion and conservation of various forms of folk, art and culture in the country;
- (b) whether many Regional Cultural Centres have been established in the country in the said context; and
- (c) whether the established Regional Cultural Centres have been effectively successful in providing safety, promotion and conservation of the local folk, art and culture?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH  
EASTERN REGION  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Culture administers various schemes for safety, promotion and conservation of various forms of folk, art and culture in the country. The brief details of these schemes is at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) Yes Sir. To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes in their member States throughout the year on regular basis for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them. These ZCCs also administer various schemes brief details of which are at **Annexure-II**.

Further, for preservation and development of art, culture and crafts across the country, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) through these ZCCs where a large number of artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture across the country. ZCCs also organize a minimum of 42 Regional Festivals for promotion of art and culture every year as per their programme calendar. For proper storage of the treasure of knowledge for posterity, several art forms including the vanishing ones are being documented by these ZCCs.

In order to promote, conserve and disseminate various forms of local folk, art and culture, ZCCs regularly organize/ participate in various programmes/ activities. List of such programmes/ activities is at **Annexure-III**.

**Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 635 for 24.07.2023**

**BRIEF OF SCHEMES**

**1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF GURU-SHISHYA PARAMPARA (REPERTORY GRANT):**

The objective of this scheme is to provide financial support for all genres of performing arts activities like dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children theatre etc. and imparting training of artists by their respective Guru on regular basis in line with Guru-Shishya Parampara. As per the scheme, support is provided to 1 Guru and maximum 18 Shishyas in the field of theatre and 1 Guru and maximum 10 Shishyas in the field of music & dance.

Amount of Assistance – Guru Rs.15000/- p.m., Shishya – Rs.2000-10000/-p.m (depending upon the age of artist).

**2. SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE:** The scheme consists of following scheme components:

**i. Financial Assistance to Cultural organizations with National Presence:**

The objective of the scheme component is to provide financial assistance to reputed cultural organizations with national presence ('not-for-profit' organizations, NGOs, Societies, Trusts, Universities, etc.) with a view to disseminate and propagate art & culture by organizing various cultural activities at National/International level for promotion of art and culture of the country. This grant is given to such organizations which has a properly constituted managing body, registered in India having an All India Character with National Presence in its operation, adequate working strength and have spent Rs. 1crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities. The Quantum of assistance under this scheme is up to Rs. 1 Cr which can be increased to 5 crore in exceptional cases.

**ii. Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG):**

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Universities etc. for Seminars, Conference, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The maximum grants provided under CFPG is Rs.5 Lakh (Rs. 20 Lakh under exceptional circumstances)

**iii. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas:**

The objective of this scheme component is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas through research, training and dissemination through audio visual programmes. The financial support is provided to the organizations in the States falling under the Himalayan Region i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The quantum of funding is Rs. 10.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 30.00 lakhs in exceptional cases.

**iv. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization:**

Under this scheme component financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including Monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and tradition and research in related fields. The quantum of funding under scheme component is Rs. 30.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to 1.00 crore in exceptional cases.

**v. Financial Assistance for Building Grants including Studio Theatres:**

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, University, College etc. for creation of Cultural infrastructure (i.e. studio theatre, auditorium, rehearsal hall, classroom etc.) and provision of facilities like electrical, air conditioning, acoustics, light and sound systems etc. Under this scheme component, the maximum amount of grant is up to Rs.50 Lakh in metro cities and up to Rs.25 Lakh in non- metro cities.

**vi. Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities:**

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial assistance to all eligible organizations for creation of assets for enhancing the audio-visual spectacle for allied cultural activities to give firsthand experience of live performances on regular basis and during festivals in open/closed areas/spaces. Maximum assistance under the scheme component, including applicable duties & taxes and also Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costing for five years, will be as under:- (i) Audio: Rs.1.00 crore; (ii) Audio+Video: Rs. 1.50 crore.

**vii. Domestic Festivals and Fairs:**

The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs' organized by Ministry of Culture.

**3. SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE:** The scheme consists of three components. The names and details of the scheme components are as given below:

**i. Scheme for the Award of Fellowship to Outstanding Persons in the field of Culture:**

Upto 400 fellowships (200 Junior and 200 Senior) are awarded in a batch year to outstanding persons in the age group of 25 to 40 years (Jr.) and above 40 years (Sr.) in different cultural fields @ of Rs. 10,000/- p.m. and 20,000/-p.m. for the period of 2 years for cultural research. The Fellowship is released in four equal six monthly installments.

**ii. Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields:**

Upto 400 Scholarships are awarded in a batch year. Under this scheme financial assistance is given to young artistes of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Music etc. @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years. The Scholarship is released in four equal six monthly installments.

### **iii. Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research:**

The purpose of the Scheme Component is to invigorate and revitalize the various institutions under the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and other identified cultural institutions in the country, by encouraging scholars/ academicians to affiliate themselves with these institutions to work on projects of mutual interest. Upto 15 Fellowships (Rs.80,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) and 25 Scholarships (Rs.50,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) for a maximum period of 2 Years. The Fellowship is released in four equal six monthly installments.

### **4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TAGORE CULTURAL COMPLEXES (TCC):**

The objective of this scheme is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, State / UT Govt. University, Central/State Govt. agencies/bodies, Municipal Corporations, reputed not-for-profit organizations etc. for creation of new Large Cultural Spaces such as Auditorium with facilities and infrastructure for stage performances (dance, drama and music), exhibitions, seminars, literary activities, green rooms, etc. The Scheme also provides support for restoration, renovation, extension, alteration, up-gradation, modernization of existing cultural facilities (Rabindra Bhawans, Rangshalas, Multipurpose Cultural Complexes) etc. Under this scheme, grant of up to Rs. 15 Crore is provided.

### **5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN ARTISTS:**

The objectives of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance @ Rs.6.000/- p.m. to veteran artists aged 60 years and above having annual income not more than Rs.48,000/- per annum) who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. but are now living in penury condition.

### **6. SEVA BHOJ YOJANA:**

Under the Scheme of 'Seva Bhoj Yojana' Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid on purchase of specific raw food items by Charitable/Religious Institutions for distributing free food to public shall be reimbursed as Financial Assistance by the Government of India. Free 'prasad' or free food or free 'langar' / 'bhandara' (community kitchen) offered by charitable/religious institutions like Gurudwara, Temples, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Math, Monasteries etc. are covered under Seva Bhoj Yojana.

**Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred  
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**Schemes being implemented by Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)**

- i. Award to Young Talented Artistes:** The Scheme “Young Talented Artists” is carried out to encourage and recognize the young talents especially in the field of rare art forms. Talented youngsters of the age group of 18-30 years are selected and given a onetime cash award of Rs. 10,000/-.
- ii. Guru Shishya Parampara:** This scheme envisages transmitting our valued traditions to the coming generations. Disciples are trained under veterans in art forms which are rare and vanishing. Rare and vanishing art forms of the region are identified and eminent exponents are selected to carry out the training programmes in ‘Gurukula’ tradition. The monthly remuneration for Guru – Rs. 7,500/-, Accompanist – Rs. 3,750/- and Pupils - Rs. 1,500/- each for the period of six month to maximum 1 year for one scheme. The names of the Gurus are recommended by the State Cultural Affairs Departments.
- iii. Theatre Rejuvenation:** To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid. The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- iv. Research & Documentation:** To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media. The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- v. Shilpgram:** To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.
- vi. Octave:** To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.
- vii. National Cultural Exchange Programme:** It can be termed as the lifeline of the Zonal Cultural Centers. Under this scheme, various festivals of performing arts, exhibitions, yatras etc are organized in member States. Artists from other zones/states are invited to participate in these programmes. Participation of artists from the Zone in festivals held in other parts of the country are also facilitated. Zonal centres also participate in Major festivals happening in member States by arranging performances during these festivals where large number of audience get chance to enjoy and understand art forms of other regions. These festivals provide opportunity to taste and understand various cultures of our country.

**ANNEXURE-III**

**Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred  
Question No. 635 for 24.07.2023**

**LIST OF PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Programme/ Activity</b>
1.	Yatras
2.	Folk songs and dance festivals
3.	Craft fairs
4.	Exhibitions
5.	Workshops
6.	Seminars
7.	Poets Meet
8.	Octave-Festival of North East
9.	Participation in Republic Day Parade Celebrations
10.	Ganga Sanskriti Yatra
11.	Participation in Kumbh Mela
12.	Maati Ke Rang
13.	Dweep Mahotsav
14.	Jashn-E-Kashmir
15.	Kurukshetra Utsav – Geeta Jayanti Samaroh
16.	National Theatre Festival
17.	Festival of India abroad
18.	Lok Rang Festival
19.	Orange City Craft Mela
20.	Chalo Man Ganga Yamuna Teer
21.	Lawani Mahotsav
22.	Minjar Mela
23.	Kullu Dussehra Festival etc.
24.	J&K Festival
25.	Surajkund Crafts Mela
26.	Hornbill Festival
27.	Shilpgram Utsav
28.	Lokotsav
29.	Sangai Festival
30.	Sindhu Darshan Festival