

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *16
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN ARTISTS

***16. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:
SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of artists who are selected under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists and the amount of pension received per month, State-wise;
- (b) the number of veteran artists from the State of West Bengal getting Financial Assistance under the Scheme of the Government and the details and number of requisite applications for pension pending during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that several veteran artists from the State of Kerala are not receiving their pension amounts even after the submission of requisite documents for the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the month from which the pension is pending and the total pension amount pending for payment as on 31.10.2024 for veteran artists from the State of Kerala;
- (e) whether the Government considers expediting the payment of pending pension to all such artists;
- (f) if so, the time frame set for the same; and
- (g) whether the Government intends to increase the monthly pension amount to veteran artists, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) of LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *16 FOR 25th November, 2024**

(a) The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' in its various forms with the objective to support old and poor artists. The financial assistance being provided to the artists under the scheme is not any kind of pension in the conventional sense. Instead, it is meant for extending support in the form of financial assistance provided for improving the financial and socio-economic status of the old artists. Financial assistance under this scheme is provided @ Rs. 6000/- per month to the selected artists of all States/UTs. However, artist pension if any, is received by the selected artists from their respective State Government/UT Administration, the same is deducted before release of the assistance to such artists. The number of artists selected and supported under Scheme 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' upto the year 2024-25 is given at **Annexure**.

(b) The number of veteran artists from the State of West Bengal getting Financial Assistance under the scheme during last three years and current year is given below:

Financial Year	Number of Veteran Artist supported	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)
2021-22	32	12.31
2022-23	27	11.71
2023-24	35	28.53
2024-25 (as on 21.11.2024)	17	08.89

Release of financial assistance to the selected artists depends on the submission of certain mandatory documents such as, Digital Life Certificate (DLC) once in a year, annual income certificate once in every five years, documents showing receipt of artist pension, if any, from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Once the requisite mandatory documents are received from them, which is a continuous process throughout the year, all efforts are made to disburse the financial assistance expeditiously.

(c) & (d) It has been the constant endeavor of the Government to help the selected artists of all States/UTs including State of Kerala by releasing financial assistance under the scheme at the earliest upon receipt of requisite documents from them. Accordingly, the number of veteran artists from the State of Kerala getting Financial Assistance under the scheme during last two years is given below:

Financial Year	Number of Veteran Artist supported	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)
2022-23	51	25.3
2023-24	67	64.21

(e) & (f) Ministry of Culture had entrusted the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for disbursing the financial assistance to the selected beneficiaries prior to the year 2017. With effect from 2017, the Ministry itself started the disbursal of assistance to the old artists upon receipt of requisite documents from them. To further streamline the disbursement of financial assistance to the beneficiaries under the scheme, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023 which has led to increase in the disbursal of financial assistance from Rs. 18.17 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 28.96 crore in 2023-24.

(g) The scheme was last reviewed in 2022 and monthly financial assistance under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 6000/- from 1st June, 2022.

Annexure

**Annexure referred to in Reply of Part (a) of the
Starred Question No. *16 for 25.11.2024 in Lok Sabha**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No of Artists Benefitted
1	Andhra Pradesh	507
2	Assam	36
3	Bihar	41
4	NCT of Delhi	34
5	Haryana	21
6	Jharkhand	13
7	Karnataka	834
8	Kerala	344
9	Madhya Pradesh	55
10	Maharashtra	1995
11	Manipur	116
12	Nagaland	4
13	Odisha	2049
14	Rajasthan	9
15	Tamil Nadu	264
16	Telangana	673
17	Uttar Pradesh	231
18	Uttarakhand	13
19	West Bengal	94
	Total	7333*

*After Covid-19, an intensive study was undertaken to figure out the actual number of beneficiaries availing benefits under the scheme and to close the cases (around 400) of demised beneficiaries. During the study it was found that 7333 had submitted their requisite documents and availed the benefit of financial assistance under the scheme at some time or the other over the years.
