

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM AND CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4612  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002  
CULTURAL HERITAGE OF DALITS  
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is any scheme to preserve the cultural heritage of dalits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existance of musical dance `Dasyu` of dalits is on the verge of extinction; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken to preserve such folk arts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) Tribal and folk arts of various Communities in India, including Dalits, are being preserved and promoted through the Seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs). Dance troupes are regularly invited by the ZCCs to perform at local, regional and national level. The ZCCs also undertake documentation of the folk/tribal forms which are in danger of vanishing.

(c) No such dance form is traceable by the Zonal Cultural Centres.

(d) As at (a) and (b) above.