

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5309

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

DANCE FESTIVAL

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to promote and bring Nagaland and other North Eastern States in the cultural field and mainstream through Dance Festivals; and

(b) the details of the Foreign Dance Troupes that visited and participated in the Annual Dance Festival of the States in December each year during the last three years and the current year, particularly of the Nagaland State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) across the country including the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) at Dimapur and the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) at Kolkata with the objective to preserve, promote and disseminate the folk/traditional arts of the different Zones. These Centres endeavour to develop and promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of various arts of the states within their Zone and have been carrying out various activities like organization of dance festivals in accordance with their aims and objectives, both within and outside their zones. While NEZCC caters to all States of the North East, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, EZCC also caters to the States of Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Tripura.

NEZCC during 2009-10, has organized 42 festivals/programmes on its own, in the North East to promote arts & crafts of the North East. It has organized 31 more programmes in Nagaland and other states of the North East in collaboration with other cultural organizations. The NEZCC, in the year 2009-10, sponsored cultural troupes from North Eastern States to participate in 34 programmes held in the North East region and other parts of the country.

In the year 2006, Ministry of Culture initiated a special programme called 'Octave-the festival of North East' with a view to project the rich culture of North Eastern States in different parts of the country. During 2009-10, 'OCTAVE' was organized at Surat, Amritsar, Lucknow, Surajkund and Kolkata.

In the year 2008, Sangeet Natak Akademi has set up a North East Centre at Shillong for the purpose of preservation of performing art traditions of the entire North East. Sattriya Kendra, the Centre for Sattriya dance, music and theatre traditions was set up in Guwahati in the same year. The Sangeet Natak Akademi and all the ZCCs regularly present individual(s)/ groups of artistes from North East States in music and dance festivals organized by them in various parts of the country, and abroad.

(b) The 'Hornbill Festival' is organized by Government of Nagaland to which foreign troupes are also invited by the Government of Nagaland. Details of the foreign troupes that participated in the festival during the last three years are:

(i) 2007 - NIL

(ii) 2008 - No foreign participants for Dance, only Korean musicians participated and gave music performances.

(iii) 2009 - The following troupes from abroad performed
(1) Myanmar Cultural Troupe consisting of 15 members;
(2) Thai Cultural Troupe consisting of 26 members;
(3) Korean Cultural Group consisting of 12 members.

(iv) 2010- NIL so far.