

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
PROPAGATION OF CULTURE
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether theatre has traditionally played a very significant role in the development and propagation of Indian culture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken for the growth of traditional Indian Folk Theatres;
- (d) whether there is a plan to revive and bring these theatres on the pattern of modern day city life of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Traditional folk theatre has been a medium of propagating Indian philosophical and cultural values contained in our ancient texts. Modern/Contemporary theatre, which has aided the freedom movement by taking on issues of colonialism and oppression, also looks at mythological material.

(c) to (e) Institutions, such as Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of Drama, Zonal Cultural Centres as also several other training and academic establishments promote and encourage the folk theatre forms of different regions. Encouragement to folk theatre forms has been an important concern of our cultural institutions.

Sangeet Natak Akademi organizes and supports festivals of traditional theatre for promotion and growth of traditional Indian folk theatres. It also conducts training programmes under Guru-Shishya Parampara, and supports research and documentation of traditional theatre forms.

National School of Drama imparts training in Dramatic Arts. It organizes Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Jashnebachpan, Bal Sangam and Workshops for development of contemporary and traditional performing forms. As part of its training programme, students of National School of Drama are sent to different regions to familiarize themselves with existing folk and tribal arts relating to theatrical/music forms.

Zonal Cultural Centres are operating a scheme known as Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme with the aim of promoting the theatre movement and revitalizing it by holding theatre shows and providing facilities to the amateur theatre groups, talented artistes, directors and others to stage their performance.

Schemes of fellowships, scholarships, cultural functions, and salary and production grants operated directly by Ministry of Culture also provide assistance to various performing arts projects including those relating to traditional folk theatres.