

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2414  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010  
TRADITIONAL FOLK CULTURES  
Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether most of Indian traditional folk cultures are disappearing;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete policy of revive and preserve the Indian folk arts and culture;
- (c) if so, the measures being taken to give incentive to the artists in this regard; and
- (d) the details of incentive schemes given to folk artists in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (d): The Central Government is already implementing a variety of schemes aimed at preserving, promoting and reviving the Indian folk arts and culture. The Central Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to extend support to folk and traditional arts and artisans of the country. Through these Centres, the Central Government is implementing the following schemes:

1. National Cultural Exchange Programme
2. Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme
3. Young Talented Artistes Scheme
4. Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms
5. Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme
6. Shilpagram Activities
- 7 Loktarang – National Folk Dance Festival and OCTAVE - Festival of the North East.

Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata has taken up a special project for reviving and revitalizing the folk art forms as a means of sustainable livelihoods. 13 art forms from 10 districts of Orissa and West Bengal were selected for this project.

To support India's varied arts, including the folk arts, the Ministry of Culture also has the following schemes:

1. Scheme of Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals Engaged for Specified Performing Arts Projects
2. Cultural Functions Grant Scheme
3. Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields
4. Scheme for the Award of Fellowships to Outstanding Persons in the Field of Culture.

Besides, the Sangeet Natak Akademi also supports folk art forms through its schemes of Training and Preservation of Traditional, Folk and Tribal Performing Arts, Akademi Awards and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, another autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, has documented and disseminated knowledge about these art forms, through several events which include exhibitions, audio-visual documentations, seminars, performances and publications. The National School of Drama is also implementing a scheme of Promotion of Folk and Tribal Arts, under which various folk and tribal performing art traditions are invited to participate in its National Theatre Festival and Bal Sangam.

For supporting folk and other artistes who face indigence in their old age, the Ministry of Culture is operating a scheme known as the "Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and Such Other Walks of Life Who May be in Indigent Circumstances and Their Dependents". Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 4000/- per month is given to the artistes (selected by the Expert Committee), who have made significant contribution to art and culture, are not less than 58 years of age and whose income does not exceed Rs. 4000/- per month.