

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3441
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
PROMOTION OF THEATRE
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for revitalisation of theatre activity in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details of areas identified for improvement so far;
- (c) whether the Government has extended any support to theatre groups including setting up of Studio/Experimental Theatres;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken to encourage and promote theatre in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTRY OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The Government operates the following schemes for promotion & revitalization of performing arts in the country, including theatre:

(i) To provide sustenance to theatre groups, production support and salary grants are provide to them under the scheme of 'Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals Engaged for specified Performing Arts Projects'.

(ii) To promote scholarship and creative work in the field of theatre, scholarships and fellowships are awarded to theatre artistes and scholars under the scheme of award of 'Scholarships to Young Artistes' and award of 'Fellowships to Outstanding Persons in the Field of Culture'.

(iii) To create performance opportunities for theatre groups, theatre festivals are supported under the Cultural Functions Grant Scheme.

(iv) To crate appropriate performance spaces for theatre, Ministry of Culture was operating a scheme of 'Building Grants to Cultural Organizations' and 'Multipurpose Cultural Complexes Scheme'. These have been revamped and reintroduced recently as the 'Scheme of Building Grants, including Studio Theatre' and the 'Scheme for Tagore Cultural Complexes', respectively.

2. The Scheme of Building Grants, including Studio Theatre has been introduced with a view to further improve theatre activities in the country and encourage the setting up of studio/experimental theatres as cost-effective and appropriately equipped performance, rehearsal and training spaces for the theatre community.

3. Besides these schemes being directly operated by the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademi is also engaged in the task of promotion and development of theatre and to this end it undertakes multifarious activities. In its efforts to give recognition to theatre artistes at the National level, it has honored a galaxy of theatre artistes with Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards and Fellowships.

4. National School of Drama is a premier theatre training institution, imparting a 3-year training programme in dramatic arts. It also has an out-reach programme to give opportunity to theatre enthusiasts to undergo short-term training workshops. It also organizes an annual theatre festival, called Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

5. The seven zonal cultural centres under the Ministry of Culture are implementing a 'Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme'.