

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:975  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012  
GRANTS FOR PROMOTION OF CULTURE  
Joshi Shri Mahesh

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

- (a) whether the Ministry of Culture provides grants to institutions and individuals for promotion of cultural activities including drama and theatre in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are reports of irregularities in the process of giving grants by the Ministry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken proposed to prevent recurrence of such incidents alongwith the action taken against the guilty officers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

- (a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Apart from providing grants to all its autonomous institutions, Ministry of Culture provides awards and grants to Non-Government organizations and individual artistes, for promotion of diverse cultural activities, under its various schemes given in the Annexure.
- (c)and(d): During the year, certain irregularities came to the notice of Ministry in respect of seven cases of Odisha for grant under the scheme of "Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals engaged for specified Performing Arts Projects" .
- (e) While necessary corrective and remedial action has been initiated to fix responsibility in the present case, Ministry has taken following steps to ensure better transparency in the sanction of grants:
- (i) grants are given only on the recommendation of an expert committee;
  - (ii) recommendations of the expert committee are placed on Ministry's website, for public information;
  - (iii) all the documentary requirements like indemnity bond, etc. are insisted upon at the application stage;
  - (iv) all the cases recommended in a particular meeting of the expert committee are processed together, for necessary approvals; and
  - (v) sanctioned funds are transferred electronically direct into bank account of the beneficiary.