

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7588  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012  
REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF ZCCS  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether the committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Mani Shankar Aiyer to look into the functioning of Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations including functional changes required in the working of the Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs), made by the said committee;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government on the said recommendations alongwith the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (d) whether the Government has stressed the need for conserving and promoting traditional arts and culture in the wake of threat posed by emergence of new medium of entertainment; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard including the role to be played by the ZCCs in preserving the art forms?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has made various recommendations for structural and functional changes in the existing set up of the ZCCs. These include restructuring of the Governing Body and Executive Board of the ZCCs; setting up of an Indian Council of Zonal Cultural Centres and a Folk & Tribal Akademi; enhancing of the existing Corpus Fund of the ZCCs; enhancing the remuneration of folk and tribal artistes; revamping the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme; undertaking cultural propagation primarily in villages, mofussil areas and city slums; organizing Apna Utsav and Yatras to mark the Silver Jubilee of the ZCCs, etc.

(c) Before taking a view on the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry forwarded the Report to all State Governments, concerned Ministries, Organizations, etc. to seek views and comments of all the stakeholders. The Comments received have been examined. The work relating to Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the ZCCs has already been started. The Opening Ceremony of the Silver Jubilee Celebration was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the august presence of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, NAC, on 13th April, 2012 at Panchkula. The policy for appointing Directors of the Zonal Cultural Centres has also been revised as per the recommendations made by the Committee. Action on other recommendations is under consideration.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The mandate of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres is to preserve & propagate the traditional folk arts & crafts of the country. They have been implementing the following schemes to preserve and promote traditional art and culture:

i. National Cultural Exchange Programme.

ii. Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme.

iii. Young Talented Artistes Scheme.

iv. Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms.

v. Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme.

vi. Shilpagram Activities.

vii. Loktarang - National Folk Dance Festival and Octave.