

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:700

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

IRREGULARITIES IN RELEASING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an expert panel had reported about certain irregularities in the process of giving grants by the Ministry to institutions and individuals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some organisations which were blacklisted have also been included in the list of grants issued;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In the meeting held on 17th August, 2011, some of the Expert Committee members brought certain irregularities to the notice of this Ministry in respect of 07 (seven) cases of Odisha seeking Production Grant under the Scheme of 'Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals Engaged for Specified Performing Arts Projects' [short name: Salary and Production Grants Scheme].

The Expert committee members pointed out that in the previous meeting held on 19th & 20th April, 2011, they had rejected six proposals for production grant received from Odisha which found place among the 07

(seven) recommended cases. They also pointed out that in the seventh case, an amount of Rs. 50,000/- only was recommended, while in the minutes it appeared as Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. No Organisation (blacklist by the Ministry) has been included in the list of grantees.

(e): Necessary corrective and remedial action has been initiated to fix responsibility. The Ministry has also 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 the Ministry's website, for public information;
- (iii) All the documentary requirements like registration details, indemnity bond, bank details, etc. are insisted upon at the application stage, itself;
- (iv) All the cases recommended in a particular meeting of the Expert Committee are processed together, for necessary approval; and
- (v) Sanctioned funds are transferred electronically direct into bank account of the beneficiary.