

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4801

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

FUNCTIONING OF ZONAL CULTURAL CENTRES

Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up more Cultural Centres across the country to promote Indian culture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to review the functioning of Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) set up in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the terms of references and composition of the said Committee;
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (f) if so, the major recommendations contained therein along with the steps/action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a) and (b): The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) having their headquarters at Patiala, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur, Nagpur and Thanjavur. The main objective of the ZCCs is the preservation, promotion and dissemination of the traditional folk arts and culture of the various States/ Union Territories.

There is no proposal to set up more Zonal Cultural Centres.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): A Committee was constituted on the 12th August, 2010 with the following composition and terms of reference:

(1) Composition of the Committee:

(i) Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) - Chairperson

(ii) Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra – Member

(iii) Shri Amol Palekar - Member

(2) Terms of Reference:

(i) Examine the action taken on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted in August 1994 under the chairmanship of Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy to look into the working of the ZCCs, and ascertain as to how many of them have been acted upon and why the others have not;

(ii) Ascertain whether the ZCCs have fulfilled the objectives for which they were set up and reasons for the shortcomings, if any;

(iii) Examine whether all/some of the ZCCs need to be wound up and/or merged with some other existing body/bodies;

(iv) Suggest structural or functional changes required and any new or relevant directions which could be given to the ZCCs to improve their functioning, if they are to be continued; and

(v) Suggest whether any expansion of the ZCCs network is called for;

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): The Committee has submitted its Report on 11th April, 2011, wherein it has made various recommendations for structural and functional changes in the existing set up of the ZCCs, which inter-alia, include restructuring of the Governing Body and Executive

Board of the ZCCs; enhancing of the existing Corpus Fund of the ZCCs; enhancing the remuneration of folk and tribal artistes; undertaking cultural propagation primarily in villages, mofussil areas and city slums; and organizing Apna Utsav and Yatras to mark the Silver Jubilee of the ZCCs.

The Committee's recommendation to include cultural personalities in the field of consideration for senior appointment has since been implemented by amending Recruitment Rules for the post of Director in ZCCs. In consonance with the recommendations of the Committee, the opening ceremony of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations was inaugurated on the 13th April, 2012 at Panchkula.

Out of a total of 92 recommendations, 90 have been accepted by the Government.