

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR CULTURAL ARTISTS

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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the welfare schemes formulated by the Union Government for the welfare of cultural artists in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any new scheme for the welfare of cultural artists and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any grants, pension and other financial assistance has been provided to cultural artists of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the schemes for the protection of traditional and other artists of the country; and
- (f) if so the details thereof and the steps taken /being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a) to (f) Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme namely "Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of Life who may be in Indigent Circumstances and their Dependents" now renamed as "Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund".

Persons considered under this Scheme:-

- (i) When an artist expires his next of kin benefits from this Scheme.
- (ii) An artist who has temporary disability or is seriously ill on account of which he is not in a position to earn his livelihood and support his/her family and / or unable to meet expenses of his treatment will also be considered.
- (iii) When an artist has fallen in indigent circumstances and needs one-time financial assistance to surmount his present predicament will also be considered. The financial assistance granted shall be of non-recurring nature and the amount of assistance on any occasion shall be restricted to the following limits:-

(i) In case of death - Rs. 2 lakh;

(ii) For medical treatment - Rs. 1 lakh;

(iii) Physical disability - Rs. 50,000/-

Funds are released to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), who is the service provider under the Scheme who further disburses the funds to the beneficiaries. The amount released to LIC during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

Year	Rs. in crore
2010-11	12.92
2011-12	11.94
2012-13	15.22
2013-14	8.58

(as on date)