

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1927
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF FOLK ARTISTS
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote and protect famous folk/ traditional and other artists in the country including Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schemes of the Government to promote the talents of these artists at international level?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) having their headquarters at Patiala, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur, Nagpur and Thanjavur with the objectives to preserve, promote and disseminate the traditional folk and tribal arts and culture of all the States/ Union Territories including Gujarat. The State of Gujarat is the member State of West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur. The ZCCs endeavour to develop and promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of various arts of the Zone and to upgrade and enrich consciousness of the people about their cultural heritage. The ZCCs have been carrying out various activities and organizing programmes at the national, zonal and local levels in accordance with their aims and objectives, implemented through following schemes:-

- a. National Cultural Exchange Programme.
- b. Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme.
- c. Award to Young Talented Artistes.
- d. Research & Documentation Scheme.
- e. Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme.
- f. Shilpgram Scheme.
- g. Octave and J&K Festivals.

(c) Under Festival of India, artists of different fields are considered for participation at International level. Besides, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an autonomous body under Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has also been promoting folk and other artists by way of sponsoring their visits across the globe to give cultural performances and participate in various international events.