

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3148
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015
AWARENESS ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF NER
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh; Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to create awareness about the cultural diversity of the North-East Region(NER), particularly in the light of rise in instances of crime against people from the NER;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for conservation and development of diverse culture, customs and traditions of the North-East; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to encourage cultural ex- changes different linguistic, ethnic, social and cultural communities across the country including NER?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Culture has been organizing various cultural activities and programmes within different parts of the country including North East to develop and promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of various Arts of North-East Region. However, on the recommendation of the Committee chaired by Shri M.K. Bezbaruah to look into the concerns of the people of North East living in other parts of the country such activities have been further augmented. Seven Zonal Cultural Centres under Ministry of Culture under the OCTAVE programme take up various activities to create cultural awareness of North East region in other parts of the country. All ZCCs conduct OCTAVE in their member States in which folk and tribal artists of North East participate. During 13-17 January, 2015 the North-East Zonal Cultural Centre of Dimapur organized "Matti Ke Rang" festival in which folk and tribal artists of the entire country participated.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Culture has been allocating 10% of its total Plan allocation for development of Art and Culture in North East Region. In order to promote the unique cultural heritage of North-East Region and to promote the overall cultural development of the region the Ministry and its various attached/subordinate offices and autonomous organization undertake various activities pertaining to art and culture of the North East region in North-East States and other parts of the country through their respective Plan Schemes. Under the Scheme National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) various festivals of Performing Art Exhibitions, Yatras etc are organized in different parts of the country. Besides ZCCs, other organizations of the Ministry of Culture also organize various activities throughout the Country wherein artists from North-East Region participate. NEZCC has documented 56 folk and tribal art forms pertaining to all the 8 states in the North East Region. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) also conserves and protects monuments of national importance in the North-East Region.