

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1698
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
PROMOTING ARTISTS
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that some artists are living in miserable conditions in various parts of the country due to the indifference of the Government towards folk art and culture:
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard indicating their names and fields of profession; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the lot of such artists?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) The Government is very much concerned about the artistes and the folk art and culture and has accordingly 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/UTs.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Government is implementing the following schemes to improve the lot of performing artists including the artists belonging to folk art & culture:

1. Performing Arts Grants Scheme
2. Scholarship & Fellowship Scheme
3. National Cultural Exchange Programme
4. Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme
5. Young Talented Artistes Scheme
6. Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms
7. Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme
8. Shilpagram Activities
9. Loktarang – National Folk Dance Festival and OCTAVE – Festival of the North - East

Apart from above schemes, Government is also providing pension to those artists who have fallen in indigent conditions due to their age or else under Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund.