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Title: Need to set up the proposed National Chhau Dance Centre at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.

SHRI LAXMAN TUDU (MAYURBHANJ): I am very proud to inform this august house that my constituency is home to the world famous 'Mayurbhanj Chhau Dance'. Mayurbhanj is well known as the origin place of Chhau Dance. A 'Chhau Nrutya Pratisthan' is currently working at Baripada, the district headquarter of Mayurbhanj for training, research and furtherance of Mayurbhanj Chhau Dance.

But last year the Sangeet Natak Academy under the Ministry of Culture had decided to setup a National Chhau Dance Centre at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand totally ignoring the importance of my Mayurbhanj district in Chhau Dance. As a result of this decision, there had been huge resentment and protest, against this decision, among the people of my Mayurbhanj district as well as various parts of the country. Huge number of representations, against this decision and in favour of setting up the Proposed National Chhau Dance Centre at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, had been sent by people from various parts of the country and various walks of life. But unfortunately, the Sangeet Natak Academy has not changed its above decision till now.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Culture, through you, to kindly take necessary steps immediately to setup the Proposed National Chhau Dance Centre at Baripada in my Mayurbhanj district instead of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand. The Hon'ble Minister of Culture may also consider upgrading the existing Chhau Nrutya Pratisthan at Baripada to the Proposed National Chhau Dance Centre as it will lighten the financial burden on the exchequer.