

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 246
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2022**

**PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
HIMALAYAS**

***246 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE: be please to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the Scheme of Financial Assistance for preservation and development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayan region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of proposals received from the Himalayan States during the last three years;
- (d) the details of the new programmes prepared for the preservation and development of cultural heritage of the Himalayan States during the said period; and
- (e) the amount released to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations for this purpose during the said period, State-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH
EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 246 FOR 21ST MARCH, 2022**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Culture implements a financial grant scheme known as Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas for the purpose of promoting, protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Himalayan region spreading in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Territory of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh through research, documentation, dissemination, etc.. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the Voluntary Organizations including Colleges and Universities for study and research on cultural heritage, Preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art & crafts and documentation of cultural activities/ events like music & dance, dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture and training in traditional and folk art. The quantum of funding is Rs.10.00 lakhs per year for an organization. The Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) on the scheme is empowered to recommend the amount beyond the maximum limit but not exceeding Rs.30.00 lakhs from this scheme. Complete details of this Scheme are **Annexed**.

(c) The number of proposals received from the Himalayan States during the last three years under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas are given as under:

Year	No. of Proposals received
2018-19	130
2019-20	131
2020-21	156

(d) & (e) The Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas is a financial grant Scheme administered by the Ministry of Culture specifically for preservation and development of Cultural heritage of the Himalayan States/Union Territories including Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Territory of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The said scheme is a Central Sector Scheme and no funds are released directly to the State Governments. However, the details of State-wise funds released to the Non-Governmental Organizations under the scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas during the last 3 years and current year are given as under:

S. No.	State	Year Wise Fund Released (Rs. In Lakhs)			
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (As on 14.3.2022)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	69,00,000/-	63,12,000/-	98,25,000/-	1,03,50,000/-
2.	Sikkim	7,50,000/-	--	26,50,000/-	16,50,000/-
3.	Himachal Pradesh	46,58,500/-	55,67,000/-	69,00,000/-	90,25,000/-
4.	UT of Jammu and Kashmir	31,24,875/-	25,71,312/-	21,50,000/-	73,25,000/-
5.	UT of Ladakh	7,00,000/-	12,00,000/-	24,50,000/-	18,00,000/-
6.	Uttrakhand	77,25,000/-	73,45,000/-	96,25,000/-	1,71,97,640/-
	Total	2,38,58,375/-	2,29,95,312/-	3,36,00,000/-	4,73,47,640/-

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 246 for 21.03.2022

SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HIMALAYAS

1. Objective : The objective of the scheme is to promote, protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayan region spreading in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of Ladakh Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh through research, documentation, dissemination, etc.

2. Criteria for Grants :

- i. The voluntary organization should be registered as a society under the societies Registration Act 1860 or as a public trust under Indian Trust Act, 1882 and shall have been functioning for a period of three years.
- ii. The Colleges and Universities are also eligible to apply.
- iii. The organisation should have the capacity to undertake and promote research projects. It should have facilities, resources and personnel to implement the scheme for which the grant is required.
- iv. The Colleges and Universities should introduce in their curricula or research course aspects of studies relating to preservation of Himalayan art and culture, in case not already done.
- v. A college applying for the grant should be affiliated to the University.
- vi. The grants will be ad-hoc and of non-recurring nature.
- vii. Grants from this scheme will be given only to those organizations which are not in receipt of grants from any other source for similar purposes.
- viii. Organizations which are doing good work in the field and having resources for meeting matching funds will be given preference.

3. Purpose & quantum of assistance: The financial assistance is given for any of the items listed below up to a maximum of Rs.10.00 lakhs to any single organisation:

Sl. No.	Items	Maximum amount per annum
i.	Study and research on cultural heritage	Rs.10.00 lakhs
ii.	Preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art & crafts and documentation of cultural activities/ events like music, dance, etc.	Rs.10.00 lakhs
iii.	Dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture	Rs.10.00 lakhs
iv.	Training in Traditional and Folk Art	Rs.10.00 lakhs

3.1 The maximum grant admissible to an organization would be 75% of the total expenditure to be incurred on any item subject to maximum ceiling fixed. The remaining 25% expenditure or more should be met by the State Govt./U.T. Administration failing which the grantee organization could contribute the amount from their own resources. However, in the case of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, funding will be shared between the Government of India and the organization in the ratio of 90:10 respectively.

4. Procedure for application:

4.1 The organization/individual shall submit complete application alongwith the following documents/information to judge the eligibility of the organization through the State Government, where the project is proposed to be implemented, to the Ministry of Culture. The organisations, however, located in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Leh and Kargil Districts of Union Territory of Ladakh are exempted to submit their applications direct to Ministry of Culture only with the recommendation of concerned District Collector/Dy. Commissioner. The Universities and Colleges shall forward their applications through the U.G.C to Ministry of Culture.

Sl. No.	Documents/ Information
i.	Copy of the valid Registration Certificate clearly showing the validity of the Registration. The copy of the Registration Certificate will be duly certified by a Gazetted Officer.
ii.	Copy of Memorandum of Association
iii.	Copies of Audited Accounts for last three years.
iv.	Copies of Annual Report for last three years supported by documentary evidence of Achievements.
v.	Write-up on the activity to be undertaken alongwith detailed break-up of the cost estimate, funds requirement from the Govt., other sources of funding, completion schedule of the project, etc.
vi.	Brief profile in case of research personnel.

4.2 **Recommendation:** The State Governments/District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner/UGC while recommending the proposal will:

- i. Verify the Registration status of the organisation.
- ii. Certify that the voluntary organisation is capable of undertaking such projects.
- iii. Certify that project on the title/area proposed to be undertaken has not been undertaken in the past and it is a new project.
- iv. Recommend the activity/activities and the amount thereto.

5. Mode of and Conditions for Release of Grants:

- a. The grant shall be given based on the appraisal of applications and recommendation by the Expert Advisory Committee and thereafter administrative approval and financial concurrence of competent authorities in the Ministry of Culture.
- b. The Grants will be paid in two equal installments, the first being normally released with the approval of the project. The second installment will be released on completion of project and on receipt of duly audited statement of accounts showing the utilization of the entire amount of grant plus the share of the grantee/concerned State/U.T. Government and other documents. The release of the balance of grant will be decided on the basis of the actual expenditure incurred on the project subject to the maximum limit.
- c. An organization in receipt of financial assistance under the scheme shall be open to inspection by an officer of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India or the State Government concerned.
- d. The accounts of the project shall be maintained properly and separately and submitted to the Government of India as and when required and will be subject to check by an officer of the Central Government or the State Government or by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion.

- e. The grantee shall maintain:-
- i. Subsidiary accounts of the grants-in-aid received from the Government.
 - ii. Cash book Register in hand written bound books duly machine numbered.
 - iii. Grant-in-aid Register for the grant received from the Government and other agencies.
 - iv. Separate ledgers for each item of expenditure like construction of civil work, etc.
- f. The organization shall maintain a record of all assets acquired wholly or substantially out of the Central Government grant and shall not dispose of or encumber or utilize for purposes other than those for which the grant was given without prior approval of the Government of India.
- g. If at any time, the Government of India has reason to believe that the sanctioned money is not being utilized for approved purposes, the payment of grant may be stopped and the earlier grants recovered.
- h. The organization must exercise reasonable economy in the working of the approved project.
- i. The grantee organization shall furnish to the Ministry of Culture a quarterly progress report of the project indicating in detail both the physical achievements and the expenditure incurred on each of the approved items separately.
- j. The grantee shall submit three copies of the Project Report duly bound/Audio-Video CDs/Photographs to the Ministry of Culture and one copy to the State Government where the project has been undertaken.
- k. Applications of the organisations against which previous grant/ Utilisation certificate is pending will not be considered.

6. Mode of Payment :

All payments will be made through electronic transfers.

7. Outcome of the Scheme :

A Performance-cum-achievement Report on the activity undertaken will be submitted in triplicate, duly bound, at the time of seeking final instalment to the Ministry. It should include, inter-alia, an Executive Summary of the Project Report, no. of beneficiary, location of project, etc as per the following format:

Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

Performance-cum-achievement Report

Project Title:

i.	Name, address, Tel/Fax of the organisation	
ii.	Sanction No. and date	
iii.	Total grant sanctioned/total expenditure incurred	
iv.	Location of the Project	
v.	No. of beneficiaries	
vi.	Performance-cum-Achievement	
vii.	How it will help to promote, protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayan region	
viii.	Any other point	

8. Incomplete applications:

Incomplete applications not supported by the required documents and applications received without recommendation of the prescribed authority will not be considered and summarily rejected.

9. Special Provision:

The Expert Advisory Committee on the scheme is empowered to recommend or reject any proposal received without or with the recommendation of State Government/ Local Administration and also to recommend the amount beyond the maximum limit but not exceeding Rs. 30.00 lakhs from this scheme, in respect of any proposal which is of outstanding merit for which the EAC feels that the maximum limit would not be sufficient for undertaking the said project with the approval of Minister (Culture) and concurrence of AS & FA , Ministry of Culture.

10. Inspection and Monitoring:

Inspection would be carried out by Ministry officials every year at least in 5% of the cases. The concerned State Govt., District Collector/Dy. Commissioner will also monitor.

11. Penalties in case of misutilisation of Grants:

The members of the executive body of the organisation would be liable for recovery of misused grants. The organisation will also be blacklisted for misuse of funds, fake registration certificate, etc. All immovable assets created from the Government grants would be taken over by local administration prescribed by the Ministry of Culture.