

**Protection of tribal culture**

\*133. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Ministry to promote our culture in the country and abroad;

(b) what are the special measures taken by Government to protect the tribal culture of India; and

(c) whether people are aware of programmes of Government for better utilization of these facilities to promote and protect the culture?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) It is the continuous endeavour of the Ministry of Culture to protect and promote the ?? art, culture and heritage of the country. The functional spectrum of the Ministry is very wide, ranging from generating cultural awareness at grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at the international level. The Ministry achieves its objectives through the work of its attached, subordinate and autonomous Organizations as well as through implementing various Schemes directly administered by the Ministry.

In order to promote Indian culture abroad, Cultural agreements/Cultural Exchange Programmes are signed with foreign countries. For disseminating Indian Culture abroad, grant-in-aid is also given through Indian Missions to Indo-Foreign Friendship (Cultural) Societies engaged in cultural activities. Various organizations under the Ministry also participate in seminars, exhibitions etc. from time to time for the promotion of art and culture in India and abroad.

(b) Ministry of Culture and some of its attached/subordinate/autonomous Organizations give grants to various Organizations, NGOs, artists and others in States/ Union Territories under various Schemes, in order to preserve and promote the rich Tribal Culture.

Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization of the Ministry has a Project Office viz., North East Centre for Oral Literature (NECOL) at Agartala exclusively for the cause of promotion and upliftment of tribal culture and languages like Kokborok, Khasi, Mizo, Garo, Lepcha etc.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, *Inter-alia*, undertakes research

and documentation on the contextual aspects of culture including life style, oral traditions, and folklore and art practices of communities including tribal art and culture.

The Zonal Cultural Centres, *inter-alia*, make special efforts to encourage folk and tribal arts and have programmes for preservation (including documentation and sustenance) of the vanishing art forms.

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya carries out programmes for popularization of cultures of India of which preservation and promotion of languages, folk dances, art and culture of tribes living in different areas of the country are an important and integral part.

The Anthropological Survey of India carries out anthropological research, covering various social, cultural and biological aspects of the people of India. There are 8 zonal museums across the country, which display artifacts belonging to different communities of India, many of which focus on tribal communities and their culture.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs supports State Governments that have Tribal Research Institutions (TRIs) in their efforts to preserve and promote tribal culture. The main objective of TRIs is to provide guidelines for tribal welfare and development, conduct research and evaluation studies, seminars, workshops, etc. and to set up Tribal museums.

(c) The Ministry gives wide publicity in the print media in respect of the schemes administered by it and invites applications for financial assistance. The details of the Schemes are also available in the public domain *i.e.* on the official website of the Ministry and are very popular with the people as large number of responses/applications are received for seeking financial assistance. The schemes/programmes/activities etc., administered by Ministry of Tribal Affairs are also advertised in the print media in English, Hindi and regional languages and are also available in their official website.

#### **Special security coverage to VIPs and VVIPs**

\*134. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of VIPs and VVIPs getting special security coverage by Government;