

However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the scheme of Grants-in-aid, to Tribal Research Institute (TRI) support part funding for the construction of tribal museums in predominantly tribal areas as part of its activity for protection and maintenance of tribal heritage.

Efforts to preserve traditional art forms

942. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called for additional efforts to preserve the traditional art forms of South India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far particularly for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) set up by the Government having their headquarters at Patiala, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur, Nagpur and Thanjavur preserve, promote and disseminate the traditional folk arts and culture of the various States/ Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh. The ZCCs endeavor to develop and promote the rich diversity and uniqueness of various arts of the Zone and to upgrade and enrich consciousness of the people about their cultural heritage. The ZCCs have been carrying out various activities and are organizing programmes at the national, zonal and local levels.

The State of Andhra Pradesh falls under the jurisdiction of South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur and South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur.

SCZCC, under the Documentation Scheme, has documented various art forms which *inter-alia* include Surbhi Natakam, Harikatha and Dhimsa in Audio Visual and print format. Similarly under the Guru Shishaya Parampara Scheme, SCZCC, has covered various art forms which include Khanjeera Vadan, Andhra Natyam, Dhimsa, traditional painting of Andhra Pradesh, Kuchipudi dance etc.

SZCC has documented various art forms of Andhra Pradesh which include Veedhi Naatakam, Savara Tribal Dance etc. Besides the above, SZCC has also involved the artists from South India to participate in the mega festivals like Salangai Naatham, Summer Festival, Octave, Dweep Mahotsav, Attolu Eidu etc.

Classical status to Odiya language

943. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give classical status to Odiya language, after Government received the Memorandum signed by Members of Parliament from Odisha, if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(b) the benefits usually given after granting the classical status to Odiya language?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Linguistic Experts' Committee, which has been constituted by the Government of India to consider demands for categorization of languages as Classical Languages, in its meeting held on 23.7.2013 has recommended Odiya to be declared as classical language.

(b) As per Government of India's Resolution No. 2-16/2004-US (Akademies) dated November 1, 2004, the benefits that will accrue to a language declared as "Classical Language" are as follows:

- (i) Two major international awards for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages are awarded annually.
- (ii) A 'Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages' is set up.
- (iii) The University Grants Commission be requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for Classical Languages for scholars of eminence in Classical Indian Languages.

Nomination of Majuli Island as World Heritage site

944. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the nomination dossier submitted for inscription of Majuli Island as World Heritage Site;

(b) whether Government has fulfilled all requirements for completion of the nomination process in respect of Majuli Island;

(c) if so, the details thereof and date-wise response made on all queries of UNESCO; and

(d) by when the island is likely to be finally inscribed as a World Heritage Site?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) The revised nomination dossier on Majuli Island submitted to World Heritage Centre