

**Celebration of 25 years of Zonal Cultural Centres**

1421. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has celebrated the 25th anniversary of the setting up of the Zonal Cultural Centres;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred; and

(c) whether the celebrations conformed to the pattern followed in the Apana Utsavs in Delhi and Mumbai, 1986 and 1989, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total expenditure incurred by all Zonal Cultural Centres in the Opening Ceremony, year-long programmes for Silver Jubilee Celebrations as well as on Closing Ceremony by Zonal Cultural Centres was to the tune of Rs. 28 crore approximately.

(c) Yes, Sir. The celebrations conformed to the pattern followed in the Apana Utsavs.

**Financial assistance/honorarium to literary artists/persons**

†1422. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides monthly financial assistance/honorarium to the artists/persons who are famous in literature and other similar fields and are facing severe financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the State/Union Territory-wise details of such artists benefited under this scheme during each year of the last three years and current year;

(c) whether Government proposes to enhance the said monthly financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be enhanced and provided to them?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.