

funds to 7 Zonal Cultural Centres to protect, preserve and promote various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country. The Ministry of Culture does not release funds to the State Governments and Union Territories.

(b) The State-wise list of artistes who have been provided funds from financial year 2014-15 to 2016-17 is very voluminous. The list of these artistes is available at the website of the Ministry *i.e.* <http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/performing-arts-grants-scheme-minutes>.

(c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government of India.

Import of kite strings from China

†*266. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the kite strings being imported from China are laden with powder of Lead, Magnate, Plastic and Nylon;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware about the death of people and birds taking place owing to the use of such strings for kite flying; and

(c) whether any mandatory instructions have been incorporated in the contract inked with companies involved in import of such strings and the metals used therein, so that it does not cause harm to life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As no specific Exim Code for abrasive string used for kites (manjha) exists under Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2012, separate import data and other related information regarding abrasive string used for kites (manjha) are not available. Chinese manza is a loose description given to kite threads made of nylon and may not necessarily be imported from China.

(b) Some petitions/grievances have been received requesting a ban on import of Chinese manza (kite strings). There are some reports of injuries to humans, animals and birds in some parts of the country.

(c) Import data on plastic/synthetic thread shows that it is imported under four different Chapter Heads: Chapter 39, 54, 55 & 56 of Indian Trade Classification [Harmonised System] 2012. In addition, as kite flying kit (toy) containing such

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

thread, it may find entry under Chapter 95 of ITC (HS). These are also produced domestically. Placing regulations/ restrictions only on imported synthetic/plastic threads alone, which may have multiple uses, without imposing similar restriction/ regulation on domestic sources also would violate India's commitments to the WTO. However, as Retail trade is a State subject, the State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in the matter. As per the information available, some State Governments including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have banned procuring/ distribution/ sale/ use of nylon thread and other synthetic non-bio degradable threads used for kite flying which are commonly called Chinese manjha.

Special Central assistance to tribal sub plan

†*267. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh was provided only ₹4810.32 lakh against allocation of ₹9826.50 lakh under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan and allocation of remaining amount is awaited;

(b) whether an amount of ₹8828.06 lakh is earmarked to be provided by Centre as hundred per cent assistance under Article 275(1) of the Constitution; and

(c) whether only ₹2212.02 lakh has been released out of ₹3000 lakh allocated for conservation and development of tribes such as Kumaun, Baiga, Hill Korwa, Birhor, Abhujmaria and remaining amount is yet to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has never provided ₹ 4810.32 Lakhs to Chhattisgarh State against allocation of ₹9826.50 Lakhs under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). Ministry has released total allocation of ₹9826.50 Lakh to Chhattisgarh during 2014-15. Further, there has been an actual release of ₹4800 Lakh as 1st instalment to Chhattisgarh in 2016-17 so far. This release has been made as per Guidelines of SCA to TSP, 2016 which is available on Ministry's website at following link:

<http://tribal.nic.in/WriteReadData/CMS/Documents/201606220316575684724scan0004.pdf>.

Accordingly, 25% of State allocation would be released on the basis of performance parameters.

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