

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 825
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2021**

FOLK CULTURES IN THE COUNTRY AND SCHEMES TO SAFEGUARD IT

825 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various folk cultures are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to keep them alive;
- (c) whether Government is aware that many folk artists of Indian culture are on the verge of starvation;
- (d) if so, whether Government is considering any specific scheme to safeguard these folk artists; and;
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) No such formal representation has been made to this Ministry either by State Governments or by any other body associated with folk cultures. However, to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs). These ZCCs organize number of cultural activities and programmes on regular basis during the year and folk artists from all over the country are engaged to participate in these festivals for which honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging and local transportation is provided to them. The details of the schemes being run by these ZCCs are at **Annexure-I**. ZCCs are provided annual grant-in-aid by the Government for carrying out these activities. The grant-in-aid released to these ZCCs during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)				
Sl. No.	Name of ZCC	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	NZCC, Patiala	997.60	728.77	606.26
2	NCZCC, Prayagraj	1033.39	864.39	448.04
3	WZCC, Udaipur	1130.00	923.32	706.60
4	SCZCC, Nagpur	703.16	914.95	827.80
5	EZCC, Kolkata	782.50	870.32	948.05
6	SZCC, Thanjavur	513.45	639.26	247.29
7	NEZCC, Dimapur	792.59	791.94	225.34
Total		5952.69	5732.95	4009.38

Due to Covid -19 Pandemic in the country, the entire artists community faced a financial crisis. Ministry of Culture has taken many initiatives to help the artists in distress during the Covid Pandemic. A statement indicating such actions/initiatives taken by the Ministry of Culture is placed at **Annexure-II**.

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 825 for 27.07.2021**

Schemes being implemented by Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)

- i. Award to Young Talented Artists:** The Scheme “Young Talented Artists” is carried out to encourage and recognize the young talents especially in the field of rare art forms. Talented youngsters of the age group of 18-30 years are selected and given a onetime cash award of Rs. 10,000/-.
- ii. Guru Shishya Parampara:** This scheme envisages transmitting our valued traditions to the coming generations. Disciples are trained under veterans in art forms which are rare and vanishing. Rare and vanishing art forms of the region are identified and eminent exponents are selected to carry out the training programmes in ‘Gurukula’ tradition. The monthly remuneration for Guru – Rs. 7,500/-, Accompanist – Rs. 3,750/- and Pupils - Rs. 1,500/- each for the period of six month to maximum 1 year for one scheme. The names of the Gurus are recommended by the State Cultural Affairs Departments.
- iii. Theatre Rejuvenation:** To promote theatre activities including stage shows and Production oriented workshops, etc. Honorarium Up to Rs. 30,000/- per show excluding TA & DA is paid. The groups finalized on the basis their credentials as well as the merit of project submitted by them.
- iv. Research & Documentation:** To preserve promote and propagate vanishing visual and performing art forms including folk, tribal and classical in the field of music, dance, theatre, literature, fine arts etc. in print/ audio – visual media. The art form is finalized in consultation with state Cultural Department.
- v. Shilpgram:** To promote folk and tribal art and crafts of the zone by organizing seminar, workshops, exhibitions, craft fairs, design development and marketing support to the artisans living in the rural areas.
- vi. Octave:** To promote and propagate the rich cultural heritage of North East region comprising of eight States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura to the rest of India.
- vii. National Cultural Exchange Programme:** It can be termed as the lifeline of the Zonal Cultural Centers. Under this scheme, various festivals of performing arts, exhibitions, yatras etc are organized in member States. Artists from other zones/states are invited to participate in these programmes. Participation of artists from the Zone in festivals held in other parts of the country are also facilitated. Zonal centres also participate in Major festivals happening in member States by arranging performances during these festivals where large number of audience get chance to enjoy and understand art forms of other regions. These festivals provide opportunity to taste and understand various cultures of our country.

STEPS TAKEN TO HELP THE ARTISTS DURING COVID PANDEMIC

- In view of the prevailing conditions, the Ministry of Culture issued guidelines in October, 2020 to help artists/organizations who have already been sanctioned grant under various scheme components of 'Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)' to conduct events on virtual mode. This will enable them to avail benefits under these schemes even if they are not able to stage programs in the physical format as before and will ensure continued financial assistance to tide over the present crisis.
- All efforts have been made to release the funds to already approved grantees under various financial schemes of the Ministry of Culture. The funds released during the first quarter of F.Y. 2020-21 was much more than that released during 1st quarter of FY 2019-2020. Similar efforts are being made in this financial year also.
- In view of COVID-19, under the scheme of Repertory Grant, exemption has been granted to organizations from mandatory inspection for release of yearly grant.
- All help is also being extended to the grantees for completing various procedural formalities like compliance of mandatory EAT Module. In respect of the scheme component of Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG), one-time exemption has been granted to the organizations from filing the expenditure in EAT module for release of 1st instalment to the grantees of 43rd and previous meetings of CFPGS.
- In view of COVID-19, under the Scheme of Scholarship & Fellowship for Promotion of Art & Culture, selection of Senior Fellows for the Batch Year 2019-20 & mid-term and final evaluation of 06 monthly reports of earlier batches (upto Batch Year 2017-18) in respect of both Junior/Senior Fellows has been held through virtual mode in view of the large number of members of the expert committee.
- Under the scheme of 'Artists Pension' one time exemption has been granted regarding submission of the mandatory annual income certificate by the pensioners.
- All the ZCCs have encouraged the folk artists/artisans to get registered with their member States in order to avail the schemes announced by the states.
- During the first lockdown the ZCC's organised 881 virtual programs which benefitted 22,070 artists & Rs 2.82 Crs were distributed as honorarium ranging from Rs 500-5100(Groups paid Rs 25000-50000). Similar efforts being continued this year too.
- South Zone Cultural centre (SZCC), Thanjavur in association with a Chennai based NGO Samarpana organized an online fund raising programme "Notes of Nector-100 for 1000" participated by eminent artists from North and South. This fund raiser initiative has enabled 1200 families of folk artists to get financial assistance groceries etc. during Covid-19 pandemic.
- All ZCC's took care of artistes admitted to hospitals/nursing homes and held consultations with doctors to ensure the best treatment for them. Vaccination Camps in collaboration with a multispecialty hospital in Kolkata was arranged by EZCC through CSR fund for their artistes. Emergency lifesaving medicines/injections required by some of the artists admitted in the hospital were arranged by ZCC's through Health Department of the State Governments.
- Efforts have been made to engage artists during Commemoration events enabling them to avail financial benefits out of the grants released by the Ministry.