

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH AUGUST, 2021**

IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON CULTURAL INFORMATION

2422 SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any data collection on the impact of lockdown on dissemination of cultural information in the country and the livelihood of artisans, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there have been efforts to bring out India's cultural heritage through online mediums, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds disbursed for the same so far, and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) As informed by Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, no formal assessment with regard to losses incurred by the sector has been made owing to the sector being highly unorganized. This is a highly unorganized sector thus there hasn't been any formal data collection by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). However, the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is extending the benefit to the handicraft artisans under "National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP)" and "Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)" to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans.

Virtual meetings have been organized with State Governments and their agencies to provide all benefits in a mission mode to handicrafts artisans. Further, implementing agencies registered with Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) have also been requested to extend support to handicraft artisans.

(b) & (c) In view of the prevailing COVID conditions, Ministry of Culture has issued guidelines in October, 2020 to help artists/organizations to conduct events on virtual mode so as to enable them to avail benefits under various financial assistance schemes of the Ministry, even if they were not able to stage programs in the physical format, to tide over the present crisis. Apart from this, the various Autonomous Organizations under Ministry of Culture have also been organizing programmes through online mediums like YouTube, Facebook, Live Streaming etc. during the COVID pandemic times. Approximately, more than 2000 such programmes/activities have been organized virtually through various online mediums by the different autonomous organizations under the Ministry of Culture.

The artists engaged for these programmes/events are paid financial support in the form of TA/DA, honorarium, boarding/lodging etc. as per approved rates.

Regular grant-in-aid is provided by the Government to all these organizations for organizing such programmes.