

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1903
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2024

PRESERVING TRIBAL CULTURE

1903 SMT. MAHUA MAJI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to preserve the tribal culture in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of schemes launched in Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 to preserve the culture of tribals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India provides financial support to the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in States/UTs for the projects/activities undertaken by them for the preservation and promotion of tribal culture, heritage and practices. Ministry also supports activities through another “Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events”. Under these schemes funds are provided

- i. Ministry has sanctioned 11 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums in 10 states to acknowledge the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal people and to exhibit rich tribal cultural heritage of the region. Other than these Ethnographic Museum are also sanctioned to showcase rare artefacts, dresses, ornaments, weapons etc related to life and culture of various tribes.
- ii. Tribal Research Institutes organise different events like National Tribal Craft Mela, National/State Tribal Dance Festival, Art Competition, Workshop – cum – Exhibition on Tribal paintings and state-level tribal poet and writers meet. Further Ministry provides funds to organize tribal fairs & festivals, festivals like "Medaram Jathara" undertaken by the Koya Tribe of Telangana, Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, Sarhul Festival of Jharkhand, Lokotsav of Goa and Pawl Kut festival of Mizoram, etc.

- iv. Research studies/publication of books/documentation including audio visual documentaries for promotion of rich tribal cultural heritage which includes preservation of tribal languages.
- v. Research and documentation of Indigenous practices by tribal healers and medicinal plants, Adivasi Languages, agriculture system, dances and paintings, organization of literary festivals, publication of books written by tribal writers/ authors, translation works and literature competitions, etc.
- v. Ministry has developed a searchable digital repository where all research papers, books, reports and documents, folks' songs, photos/videos are uploaded. The repositories can be visited at <https://repository.tribal.gov.in/> (Tribal Digital Document Repository)
- vi. Government of India has declared 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honour all the tribal freedom fighters to remember and acknowledge their contribution to the freedom struggle and cultural heritage, and to re-energize the efforts for the socio-economic development of the tribal regions. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with other central ministries, state governments, and other institutions are celebrating the glorious history of its tribal people, culture, and achievements since 2021.
- vii. Development of bilingual Primers for the preservation of tribal languages and enhancement of learning achievement levels amongst the Scheduled Tribe Students. Many language primers have been developed by various State Governments.
- viii. Tribal cultural exchange programmes including tribal women SHGs
- ix. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned various projects/activities under Central Sector Scheme 'Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE)' for undertaking to preserve the Indian tribal culture.
- x. TRIFED also organizes Adi Mahotsav festival at National level and State level and Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) to identify new artisans and new products at the sourcing level in States/Districts/Villages for expanding the tribal producers base.
- xi. The Ministry of Culture is the nodal Ministry for the promotion of culture including tribal culture as part of its larger mandate for protection and preservation of India's diverse culture. As informed by Ministry of Culture, to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art and culture including tribal culture throughout the country, the Ministry of Culture has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) in the country during 1985-86 with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. Various festivals like Hornbill Festival, Octave, Tribal Dance Festival, Adi Bimb, Adi Sapta Pallav, Adi Lok Rang, Adivasi Mahotsav, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs etc. are organised through Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) of Ministry of Culture to promote & preserve the tribal culture. Folk & tribal artists are engaged by these ZCCs to showcase their talents in these cultural

programmes/activities for which they are paid honorarium, DA/TA, boarding & lodging etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.

- xii. Further, there are adequate constitutional and statutory safeguards for the protection, preservation, conservation, and promotion of tribal culture, traditions, and customs. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Tribal Advisory Councils in States with Scheduled Areas. Further, it provides for Special Powers of the Governor in such States. The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 similarly provides for extensive authority of the Gram Sabhas/Gram Panchayats to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs and their cultural identity. The Sixth Schedule, applicable in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, empowers the District and Regional Councils in matters of social customs.

(c): Under the scheme of Support to TRIs Ministry has sanctioned various projects/activities in financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24, wherein 100% funding is provided by the Central Government on the proposal submitted by States. The details of the projects sanctioned can be viewed at Ministry's web site tribal.nic.in.
