

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2732**  
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GIVING PENSION TO ARTISTS**

2732. **Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the eligibility criteria for giving pension to veteran/elderly artists in the country;
- (b) the number of proposals received by Government under the Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists scheme during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the number of applications received from Karnataka and action taken thereon during last five years;
- (d) the number of applications approved and the number of applications rejected during the last five years along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of special efforts made by Government to mitigate the hardships of the beneficiaries in earning their livelihood under the said scheme?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) Ministry of Culture administers a scheme by the name of 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists', under which financial assistance is provided to the eligible veteran artists. Assistance provided under the scheme is not any kind of pension to these artists. Following are the eligibility criteria for providing financial assistance under the scheme:

- i. The applicant artist should have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. in their active age or are still contributing;
- ii. The applicant artist should not be less than 60 years of age;
- iii. Annual income of the applicant must not exceed Rs. 72,000/-;
- iv. The applicant artist should be a recipient of artists pension of at least Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration, or the artistic credentials of the applicant is verified and recommended by the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture.

- v. The applicant artist should not be getting financial assistance under any other scheme of the Ministry of Culture.

(b) The State-wise number of proposals received under the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' during the last five years is annexed.

(c) The number of applications received, artists approved, numbers of artists supported and amount released to the artists from Karnataka under the scheme during the last five years are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Numbers of Artists supported	Amount released (in Lakh)
1.	2019-20	345	49	102	30.29
2.	2020-21	136	114	144	29.97
3.	2021-22	190	03	146	59.55
4.	2022-23	176	23	130	64.32
5.	2023-24	250	21	344	341.98

(d) The total no of applications approved and rejected under the scheme received from all the States/UTs including Karnataka during the last five year is annexed. Applications found incomplete due to non-submission of recommendations of Art & Culture Department of State Government/UT administration or ZCC under this Ministry and lack of artistic credentials are rejected.

(e) To mitigate the hardships faced by the beneficiaries selected under the scheme, the following action has been taken by the Ministry in the recent years:

- (i) The quantum of financial assistance under the scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 4000/- per month to Rs. 6000/- per month w.e.f. June, 2022;
- (ii) The requirement of submitting income certificate every year has now been done away and instead it is now required to be submitted once in five years;
- (iii) Earlier, the applicant artist applying under the scheme should have been mandatorily be a recipient of artists pension of atleast Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. This condition has been relaxed and now also provides for verification and recommendation of the artistic credentials by the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture in case the applicant is not a recipient of artists pension from the State Govt./UT Administration;
- (iv) To ensure smooth and timely disbursal of financial assistance to the selected artists, an MoU has been signed with Canara Bank on 28.06.2023.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the  
Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2732 for 19.12.2024**

Sr. No.	State	Applications received in the year				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andhra Pradesh	177	52	233	218	291
2	Assam	12	3	4	2	0
3	Bihar	0	0	0	36	0
4	Delhi	1	0	1	0	3
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	507
6	Gujrat	1	0	0	0	0
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0
8	Jharkhand	0	0	0	1	0
9	Haryana	0	0	0	0	2
10	Himachal Pradesh	0	4	3	1	2
11	Karnataka	345	136	190	176	250
12	Kerala	45	22	28	79	14
13	Madhya Pradesh	8	3	2	2	2
14	Maharashtra	887	238	1451	1158	1469
15	Manipur	28	12	0	3	1
16	Nagaland	859	1	198	0	0
17	Odisha	567	584	2698	2127	1136
18	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	1
19	Punjab	7	0	0	0	1
20	Rajasthan	2	2	5	1	1
21	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	79	66	31	23	15
23	Telangana	528	142	509	849	483
24	Uttar Pradesh	16	68	9	15	38
25	Uttarakhand	0	1	0	0	1
26	West Bengal	2243	1269	54	26	53
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5807</b>	<b>2603</b>	<b>5416</b>	<b>4717</b>	<b>4270</b>

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the  
Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2732 for 19.12.2024**

Sr No	Name of State	Applications Approved and Rejected in the year									
		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2021-22		2023-24	
		Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected
1	Andhra Pradesh	35	142	34	18	91	142	33	185	38	253
2	Assam	0	12	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	0
3	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0
4	Delhi	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	374
6	Gujrat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
9	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	1	2	0
11	Karnataka	49	296	114	22	3	187	23	153	21	229
12	Kerala	12	33	21	1	8	20	9	70	1	13
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	8	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	2
14	Maharashtra	128	759	187	51	547	904	268	890	68	1401
15	Manipur	0	28	12	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
16	Nagaland	0	859	1	0	0	198	0	0	0	0
17	Odisha	130	437	340	244	1260	1438	622	1505	32	1104
18	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19	Punjab	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	Rajasthan	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	1
21	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	2	77	14	52	1	30	1	22	1	14
23	Telangana	53	475	116	26	306	203	193	656	15	468
24	Uttar Pradesh	0	16	65	3	1	8	0	15	22	16
25	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
26	West Bengal	0	2243	914	355	32	22	0	26	15	38
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>5396</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>3165</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>3567</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>3915</b>