

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.20
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2018**

PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL HISTORY

20. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any project/ scheme in force to document and preserve the oral and cultural history of tribes; and
- (b) details of steps being undertaken for promotion of tribal arts on an international platform?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) & (b): (i) Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) provides support to the State Governments for the activities relating to Cultural Conservation, preservation, protection and promotion of tribal cultural heritage based on their demand under the scheme, "Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)". MoTA has set up TRIs in States to work as a body of knowledge & Research more or less as a think tank for tribal development and to work towards preservation and dissemination of distinctiveness/uniqueness of tribal culture and their traditional knowledge. MoTA has also developed a digital repository with web address <http://tribal.nic.in/repository> where documents, folks songs, photos/videos regarding their evolution, place of origin, lifestyle, eating habits, architecture, education level, traditional art, folk dances and other anthropological details of the tribes in India are stored. The repository currently has more than 10,000 photographs, videos and publications which are mostly done by TRIs. In addition, assistance is also provided to private Institutions/Organisations, NGO for carrying out research work on various tribal issue under the Scheme 'Tribal Festival, Research Information and Mass Education'.

(ii) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), an autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture carries out activities under 3 broad schemes namely (a) Infrastructure Development (b) Education and Outreach activities (c) Operation Salvage of which documentation and preservation of oral and cultural history of tribes is also a part. As an ethnographic museum its main focus is to collect and display objects showcasing the valuable but vanishing cultural traditions of Indian communities including tribes. Recently it has initiated documentation of tribal weekly markets in various parts of country like Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh. This photo and video documentation will lead to an exhibition.
