

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-171
ANSWERED ON- 08.12.2022

**PERFORMANCE OF PENSION SCHEME FOR THE WELFARE OF
CULTURAL ARTISTS**

171. SHRI SANJAY RAUT

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has formulated a number of schemes including Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund for the welfare of cultural artists of various fields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds released, allocated and spent under these schemes during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase the financial assistance to artists and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the provisions of financial assistance under the Welfare Fund of Artistes Pension Scheme is under review and if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken on the review ?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes sir. The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' (erstwhile known as 'Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to artistes') for the welfare of Cultural artists of various fields. The objective of the Scheme is to improve financial and socio-economic status of the old aged artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. but are in penury condition. Under this scheme financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 per month is being provided to eligible beneficiaries (both professional and non-professional artists) who are above 60 years and whose annual income is less than Rs.48,000/-.

(b) The details of funds released, allocated and spent during the last three years and current years are as given below:-

Financial Year	Fund Allocated BE/RE (Rs. in crore)	Fund released/spent (Rs. in crore)
2019-2020	21.15	18.17
2020-2021	12.36	8.71
2021-2022	17.27	15.42
2022-2023 (till date)	19.90	4.29

(c) Ministry of Culture has recently increased the amount of financial assistance to artists in financial year 2022-23 (effective from June, 2022) under two component schemes namely 'Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant)' and 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' as per the details given below:-

Name of the scheme	Category of Artiste (based on the age group)	Previous amount of Financial Assistance	Enhanced amount of financial Assistance
Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists	60 years above	Rs. 4000/- p.m.	Rs. 6000/- p.m.
Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant)	18 years and above	Rs. 6000/- p.m.	Rs. 10000/- p.m.
	12-<18 years	Rs. 4500/- p.m.	Rs. 7500/- p.m.
	6-<12 years	Rs. 2000/- p.m.	Rs. 3500/- p.m.
	Below 6 years	Rs. 1000/- p.m.	Rs. 2000/- p.m.

(d) Under the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' upto Rs.4000/- per month was given to the beneficiaries till May, 2022. However, the Scheme has now been reviewed and the financial assistance to the artist pensioner has been enhanced from Rs.4000/- to Rs.6000/- per month w.e.f. June, 2022.