

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1615
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2023

PRESERVING THE HERITAGE CRAFTS OF TAMIL NADU

1615. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified heritage crafts and art traditions of the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to promote them;
- (c) the details of programmes undertaken in the last three years, including the amount sanctioned, disbursed and utilized for the same;
- (d) whether any steps were taken for protecting the livelihoods of artisans/craftsmen during the pandemic; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) To promote, protect and preserve various forms of folk art, culture traditions and heritage crafts including the art traditions and crafts of the State of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) in the country with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. The State of Tamil Nadu is a member State of South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in the country for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them. However, no State/UT-wise funds are released by this Ministry for the purpose. The grant-in-aid provided to these ZCCs during the last three years is given as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
i.	2020-21	4009.38
ii.	2021-22	5881.48
iii.	2022-23	5810.00

To create more awareness about Indian culture, art traditions and heritage crafts, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) through these ZCCs where a large number of artists/ artisans/ craftsmen from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture in various States of the country. ZCCs also conduct various outreach programmes in far flung areas in the country to make the masses aware about the various art traditions of India including its heritage crafts.

For research and documentation of the authentic textile, craft and architectural assets of the State of Tamil Nadu, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) has collaborated with the Kalakshetra Foundation (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture), Chennai to facilitate Design Incubation in Weaving (Pattu Peetaabarum), Wood Block Printing (Achu-adagam) and Kalamkari Hand Painting (Vraathapani). The Kalakshetra Foundation aims to revive the authentic motifs, borders and vibrant colors used in textile making of Tamil Nadu with the help of their weavers, dyers and designers of traditional textiles. Further, ABCD has collaborated with the Centre for Weavers of the Kumaraguru Institutions in Bhavani, Erode (Tamil Nadu) to facilitate design incubation in weaving of Jamakkalam (coloured coarse threads), a unique cotton carpet/ durrie woven in pit looms. 'Project Jamakkalam' aims to create a culture of innovation and design among aspirational weavers of Tamil Nadu through the national exposure.

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is the Nodal Agency for over all Development of Handicraft Sector in the country at central level. In order to assist the artisans through various schemes of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), 67 Handicraft Service Centres (HSCs) are located in the country including 04 HSCs located in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Office of DC (Handicrafts) has identified 72 craft categories for artisan all over India including the State of Tamil Nadu, a list of which is at **Annexure**.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India also implements a flagship scheme by the name of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), to impart short duration skill development training to youth of the country to improve the local and rural culture including traditional artisans/ craftsmen. Under PMKVY, training has been imparted in various job roles of different sectors including job roles of traditional arts and crafts under Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC). As a result, a large number of candidates have been trained/ oriented in various traditional job roles such as Bamboo Basket Maker, Bamboo Mat Weaver, Beading Artisans, Carpet Weaving, Carving Artisans, Tarakashi Jeweller, Decorative Painter, Sketching & Painting Artisans, Hand Rolled Agarbatti Maker, Crochet Lace Trailers, Hand Embroiderer etc.

(d) & (e) The Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) extended 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 during the COVID Period. Virtual meetings were also organized with State Governments and their agencies to provide all benefits in a mission mode to artisans/ craftsmen. Further, implementing agencies registered with Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) were also requested to extend all possible support to the artisans/ craftsmen.

The number of programmes & funds sanctioned under "National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)" to the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years is as under:

Schemes	No. of Programmes	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
NHDP & CHCDS	188	1404.04

Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1615 for 03.08.2023

72 Craft Categories (including Miscellaneous Craft Categories) under which Pehchan Cards are issued to Handicraft artisans

Sl. No.	Name of Craft	Sl. No.	Name of Craft
1	Carpet & other floor coverings	37	Wood (turning and lacquer ware)
2	Art metal ware	38	Coir twisting
3	Wood wares	39	Applique
4	Hand printed Textiles Scarves	40	Lace
5	Embroidered & Crocheted goods	41	Screwpine
6	Shawls as art ware	42	Jute Craft
7	Zari & Zari goods	43	Kathputtli
8	Immitation Jewellery	44	Lacbangles
9	Jewellery	45	Painting
10	Cane & Bamboo	46	Polystone
11	Miscellaneous	47	Papermachie
12	Pot work	48	Beads craft
13	Bidri	49	WallHanging
14	Rogan Arts	50	candle
15	Conch-Shell	51	Ceramic work
16	Doll & toys	52	Mala Baddhi
17	Filigree& silverware	53	Sital Pati
18	Folk painting	54	Thewa
19	Furniture	55	Incense sticks
20	Grass, leaf, reed & fiber	56	Paddy
21	Horn & bone	57	Crewel
22	Ivory	58	Glass
23	Leather (footwear)	59	Mithila Painting
24	Leather (other articles)	60	Dry Flower
25	Metal images (folk)	61	Tuli & Sirka
26	Metal images (classical)	62	Kauna
27	Musical instrument	63	Glass Beads
28	Pottery and clay objects	64	Tie & Dye
29	Rugs & durries	65	Fusion Craft
30	Stone (carving)	66	Meena Kari
31	Stone (inlay)	67	Fabric Painting
32	Terracotta	68	Tanjore Painting
33	Theatre, Costume & Puppet	69	Sujani
34	Textile (handloom)	70	Gold Smith
35	Textile (hand embroidery)	71	Sanjhi Art
36	Wood (carving)	72	Kite making