

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1618
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF RURAL INDIA

1618. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified and documented distinctive features of more than one lakh villages across the country in a bid to harness the unique cultural heritage of rural India; and
- (b) whether in this cultural asset mapping villages have been broadly divided into seven-eight categories based on whether they are important ecologically, developmentally or scholastically, if they produce a famous textile or product, connected to some historical or mythological events such as the Independence struggle or epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana and present status thereof in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has decided to map and document all villages under Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Programme.
- (b) The MGMD seeks to compile comprehensive information detailing the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages and to make the same available to virtual and real-time visitors. Under the MGMD, information is collected under seven broad categories as given below-
- Arts and Crafts Village
 - Ecologically Oriented Village
 - Scholastic Village linked with Textual and Scriptural Traditions of India
 - Epic Village linked with Ramayana, Mahabharata and/or Puranic legends and oral epics
 - Historical Village linked with Local and National History
 - Architectural Heritage Village
 - Any other characteristic that may need highlighting such as fishing village, horticulture village, shepherding village etc.

The project aims to cover villages of all the states and Union Territories of India, including Telangana, AP, Gujarat.
