

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1620
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF DIFFERENT STYLES OF PUPPETRY ART FORMS

1620. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Odisha is the only State to have all four styles of puppetry such as string, glove, shadow and rod which are practised in the country;
- (b) whether Government has the State-wise and caste-wise data related to the number of artists performing the different styles of puppetry in country in the last 5 years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government for the promotion and preservation of these art forms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(G.KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Odisha has all four styles of puppetry such as string, glove, shadow and rod. However states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka etc. have also seen practicing the different forms of puppetry art forms.
- (b)&(c) Ministry of Culture through its organisations conducts a number of programs across the country, participants from different states have taken part in these programmes, but there is no consolidated list of the state-wise and caste –wise artists performing the different styles of puppetry in India.
- (d) The Sangeet Natak Akademi, under Ministry of Culture has been implementing several programmes under the Scheme 'Promotion and Preservation of Puppetry' for the sustenance and development of traditional Indian puppetry since the 1950s.

Besides giving awards, organizing exhibitions, festivals and workshops on both traditional and contemporary puppetry, where puppeteers from different parts of India have an opportunity to come together and see each other's work, the Akademi supports training programmes on traditional lines for some endangered styles. Sangeet Natak Akademi has been regularly organizing its regular event Putul Yatra - a festival and exhibition of Indian Puppetry.

Sangeet Natak Akademi is organizing puppetry workshops on regular bases under the eminent puppeteers in the month of June every year for youth.

Sangeet Natak Akademi has also organised string puppetry workshops for Tripura, Manipur and Assam puppeteers to enhance their skills in making and manipulation.

Zonal Cultural Centres, ZCC under ministry of culture also preserves these art forms by conducting programmes, workshop, documentation and Guru Shishya Parampara scheme.
