

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 18 #**  
ANSWERED ON- 20.07.2023

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EXPERIENCED ARTISTS  
AGED 60 YEARS AND ABOVE**

18 #. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha  
Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether Government has introduced any scheme to provide financial assistance to experienced artists aged 60 years and above;
- (b) if so, the total number of artists being provided financial assistance under this scheme;
- (c) the amount of financial assistance provided to them;
- (d) the total number of artists from Uttar Pradesh receiving assistance; and
- (e) the eligibility criteria for the artists to get assistance under this scheme, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' earlier known as 'Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes' under which financial assistance @Rs. 6000/- per month is provided to veteran artists aged 60 years and above having annual income not more than Rs.48000/-.

An MoU has been signed between the Ministry and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023 for disbursement of financial assistance to the selected beneficiaries under the scheme. As per the MoU, master data of selected beneficiaries both for fresh as well as legacy data is to

be uploaded by the Ministry in the online portal to be developed by the Canara Bank for this purpose. Based on the scheme guidelines Canara Bank is required to work out the quarterly requirement of funds and raise the demand for the same to the Ministry. Upon receipt of demand of funds from Canara Bank, the same will be released in advance on quarterly basis by the Ministry to the Bank for releasing the same on monthly basis to the eligible beneficiaries. Further, to ensure transparency and efficient utilization of funds, the scheme guidelines provide for direct transfer of amount to the account of selected beneficiaries.

(b) & (c) The total number of artists and amount of financial assistance provided to them under the scheme during the last three years are as given below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of artists	Amount of financial assistance provided (in Cr.)
1.	2020-21	2000	08.71
2.	2021-22	3029	15.42
3.	2022-23	3651	18.59

(d) The total number of artist from Uttar Pradesh receiving financial assistance under the scheme for the last three years are given below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of artists provided assistance
1.	2020-21	9
2.	2021-22	46
3.	2022-23	58

(e) An artist aged 60 years and above who have contributed in the field of art and culture in their active age and whose annual income is not more than Rs. 48,000/- can apply under the scheme either through Art and Culture Department of concerned State Government or through Zonal Cultural Centre.

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