

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 808#
ANSWERED ON- 27.07.2023

ASSISTANCE UNDER VETERAN ARTISTS SCHEME

808#. Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) quantum of amount given to each beneficiary under Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists (FAVA) and number of artistes benefitted during each of last three years and current year in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that pension to the beneficiaries is disbursed in a timely manner and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase the financial assistance of artists and if so, details thereof; and
- (d) whether the provisions of financial assistance under FAVA Scheme is under review and if so, details thereof alongwith action taken on the review?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF
NORTH-EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' under which financial assistance upto Rs.6,000/- per month is provided to the senior artists aged 60 years and above. The number of artists benefitted during last three years and current year in the State of Maharashtra are as under:-

| Financial Year | Total number of artists of Maharashtra State benefitted under the Scheme |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2020-21 | 206 |
| 2021-22 | 448 |
| 2022-23 | 740 |
| 2023-24 (as on 24.07.2023) | 292 |

- (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure the disbursement of financial assistance to beneficiaries in timely manner by Ministry of Culture, an MoU has been signed between the Ministry and Canara Bank on 28.06.2023. 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 provides for direct transfer of amount to the account of selected beneficiaries.
- (c) & (d) The scheme was reviewed and the following changes have been made effective from June, 2022:
- (i) Monthly financial assistance has been increased from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 6000/-
 - (ii) Income Certificate is required to be submitted once in every five years in place of every year.
 - (iii) The Artist applicant can submit his/her application through the concerned Zonal Cultural Center (ZCC) under Ministry of Culture also, if he/she belongs to those States/UTs where there is no provision of Artists Pension.
