

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1292
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

**'BENEFICIARIES UNDER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
VETERAN ARTISTS SCHEME IN ODISHA'**

1292. Dr. Amar Patnaik:

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the data regarding funds allocated to Odisha under the Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists Scheme during the last five years;
- (b) the caste-wise and gender-wise data for number of beneficiaries/artists under this scheme from Odisha;
- (c) whether Government is planning to start any outreach programmes or communication strategies to increase the participation of people and to provide extended support to beneficiaries under this Scheme apart from the monetary assistance offered in form of pensions; and
- (d) the details of measures taken by Government towards formalization and improving the social security of artists in the unorganized sector?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) & (b) Ministry of Culture administers a Central Sector Scheme by the name of "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists" under which financial assistance is provided directly to the artists aged 60 years and above of all States/UTs including the state of Odisha. Gender-wise numbers of beneficiaries supported and quantum of financial assistance released to artists belonging to

Odisha during the last five years is given below. However, caste-wise data is not maintained under the scheme.

Financial Year	Number of artists supported		Amount Released (in Cr.)
	Male	Female	
2018-19	388	48	1.56
2019-20	215	23	0.84
2020-21	324	31	1.19
2021-22	692	136	2.77
2022-23	774	192	3.07

This apart, financial assistance was disbursed through LIC to the artists selected prior to the year 2017 under the scheme. However, state-wise data was not maintained by them.

- (c) To increase the outreach of the Scheme and identify genuine artists, seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) under the Ministry has been directed to organize the awareness camps in their Members States. Further they have been authorized to receive the applications from the artists of their Members States/UTs, scrutinize it and forward the complete applications to the nodal agency of the scheme alongwith their recommendations. The Scheme guidelines envisage only financial support to the eligible beneficiaries.
- (d) Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to senior artists aged 60 years & above having annual income not more than 72000/- and have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture, but are facing financial difficulties due to old age.
