

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1293
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023

NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL STATUS TO BALI YATRA

1293. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware of the cultural and commercial significance of Bali Yatra;
- (b) if so, the details of the budget allocated to the State of Odisha for the same;
- (c) whether Government is considering declaring this intangible cultural heritage of India as a site of national importance under the National Conservation Policy;
- (d) whether Government is considering bestowing National Maritime Heritage Festival status for Bali Yatra in the State of Odisha;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Taking into consideration, the socio cultural importance of Bali Jatra Festival in Odisha, a three-day National Dhara event 'Samudramanthan' was organized under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), on 08.11.2022 at the Odisha Maritime Museum, Cuttack to focus on the State's glorious seafaring history, coinciding with the inauguration of the historic Bali Jatra. 'Samudramanthan' is a part of the Dhara series of events which focus on India's past history and achievements while endeavouring to connect the same with the present and prepare an action plan for the next 25 years. Coinciding with the inauguration of the historic Bali Jatra at nearby Cuttack, the event was organized by the Indian Knowledge System Division of Ministry of Education in association with the Ministry of Culture. The event included panel and round table discussions on the country's maritime history locations, traditions, ship building, navigation, trade & cultural exchange, maritime security and international law. The programme on maritime tradition was planned in Odisha because of the State's glorious tradition in the field. The Government has been providing cultural support through its Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata by providing grant-in-aid. There is no provision to release State-wise funds for this purpose.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) & (e) No Sir. There is no such scheme for giving status to any festival as National Maritime Heritage Festival.

(f) Does not arise.
