

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 265**  
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**DEVELOPMENT OF CUTTACK AS A NATIONAL CULTURAL HUB**

\*265. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any initiatives to develop Cuttack, Odisha as a national cultural hub, considering its rich historical and cultural significance;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to establish Cuttack as a centre for cultural exchange, traditional arts and crafts; and
- (c) the potential support for local artisans, cultural organizations and festivals that can enhance Cuttack's position as a key cultural destination?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) IN RESPECT OF  
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2024  
REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF CUTTACK AS A NATIONAL CULTURAL  
HUB ASKED BY SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY**

(a) to (c) Considering the rich historical and cultural significance, Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) at Kolkata to promote the rich cultural heritage of its member States including Cuttack (Odisha). EZCC organizes various cultural activities & programmes on regular basis in its member States including Cuttack (Odisha) for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

To exhibit the rich and vivid culture of Odisha, EZCC participates in Bali Yatra Cuttack Utsav, Kalakranti, Folk Fair, National Tribal/ Folk Dance & Music Festival, Chilika Shelduck Folk Carnival and All India Multilingual Drama & Dance Festival in Odisha on regular basis. Workshops viz. Filigree, Patachitra, Mayurbhanj Chhau and Saura Painting are also conducted by EZCC to promote dying and vanishing art forms of folk and tribal communities which help them to earn their livelihood.

During the last few years, documentations viz. Bali Yatra, Mural Painting of Odisha, Folk Wonders of Ganjam, Gotipua Dances of Odisha, Saura Paintings of Odisha, Pearls from Deep (Folk Music Instruments of Odisha), Tantric Dimension of Odissi Dance, Mayurbhanj Chhau, A Tale of Twin Artistry, Sambalpuri Dance of Odisha, Divine Expressions, Beyond Popular Gaze (depicting some primitive tribes of Odisha) have been done by EZCC.

To benefit the traditional crafts and artisans throughout the country including Cuttack (Odisha), Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles implements two schemes namely National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) for overall development and promotion of handicraft sector across the country including Odisha. Under these schemes, need based assistance is provided for end-to-end support to the artisans through marketing events, skill development, cluster development, formation of Producer Companies, direct benefit to artisans, infrastructural and technology support, research and development support etc.

During the programmes organized by EZCC in its member States including Cuttack (Odisha), various stalls are set up where local artisans display their handmade products for sale.

\*\*\*\*\*