

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1107**  
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

**PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CUTTACK**

1107. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Cuttack, especially its traditional arts, crafts and festivals;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken to support the development of Cuttack heritage zone, including iconic monuments like the Barabati Fort;
- (c) the funding allocated to Cuttack for cultural programmes, festivals like the Makar Sankranti and the promotion of silver filigree craft; and
- (d) the role of Ministry in fostering collaboration between local artisans and national cultural institutions to ensure the survival and recognition of Cuttack's cultural traditions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) at Kolkata to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage, traditional arts, crafts and festivals of its member State including Cuttack (Odisha). EZCC engages folk/ tribal artists and artisans/ craftsmen from its member States including Cuttack (Odisha) during various cultural activities & programmes organized by them for which they are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging, local transport etc. Stalls are also set up at the venue of the programmes in which artisans & craftsmen display and sell their handmade products to earn their livelihood. Few of the programmes organized by EZCC worth mentioning are Folk Fair, National Tribal/ Folk Dance & Music Festival, Chilika Shelduck Folk Carnival, All India Multilingual Drama & Dance Festival etc. in Odisha. Workshops viz. Filigree, Patachitra, Mayurbhanj Chhau and Saura Painting are also conducted by EZCC to promote dying & vanishing folk art forms. The grant-in-aid released to EZCC to organize various cultural activities and programmes during the last three years is as under:

<b>(Rs. in lakh)</b>		
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
i.	2021-22	1058.95
ii.	2022-23	755.81
iii.	2023-24	897.14

Besides, documentation of different folk/ tribal art forms is taken up by EZCC regularly which is being utilized for promotion and dissemination of folk/ tribal art and culture among the younger generation. 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.

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) under Ministry of Culture has developed audio visual material and films pertaining to art forms and cultural heritage of Odisha viz. Odissi Dance, Konark (The Black Pagoda), Mayurbhanj Chhau & Bandha Nritya Gotipua Dance.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Puri Circle (under Ministry of Culture) undertakes conservation and preservation of the Centrally Protected Monuments/ Sites at Cuttack i.e. the ancient monuments of Barabati Fortress and the ruins & remains of all ancient edifices, walls, gateways etc. Annual maintenance of the monument along with conservation work is being carried out regularly as per requirement.

The moat around the Barabati Fort has been rejuvenated by ASI, Puri Circle in collaboration with Cuttack Municipal Corporation, Dist. Cuttack (Odisha).

(c) Ministry of Culture runs a scheme viz. Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPG) under which financial assistance is provided for organizing Seminars, Conferences, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The funds released to the beneficiaries at Cuttack (Odisha) under the scheme during the last three years are as under:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of beneficiaries</b>	<b>Amount</b>
i.	2021-22	07	Rs. 9,97,837/-
ii.	2022-23	12	Rs. 26,03,750/-
iii.	2023-24	18	Rs. 34,75,070/-

(d) During the programmes organized by the Ministry, local artisans showcase their work which expose them to wider audience and thus giving their craft the recognition it deserves. Ministry of Culture through its various autonomous bodies organizes workshops/ programmes/ cultural activities etc. where artisans all over India including Odisha (Cuttack) are engaged in which artisans & craftsmen display and sell their handmade products to earn their livelihood.

Ministry of Culture organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs in which angans of the seven ZCCs are set up where a large number of artisans & craftsmen from all over India display and sell their handmade products to earn their livelihood.

Recently, Ministry of Culture has erected a cultural village viz. Kalagram in Sector-7 of Maha Kumbh district in which Sanskriti Angans of the ZCCs have been setup where traditional Indian handicrafts and handloom products are being displayed for sale by 98 artisans.

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