

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2272
ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2025

PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF COASTAL KARNATAKA

2272. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to preserve and promote the traditional Huli Vesha, Aati Kalenja folk dance and Bhoota Kola of coastal Karnataka, which is an integral part of the State's cultural heritage;
- (b) whether Government has any financial assistance schemes or support programmes for traditional Huli Vesha, Aati Kalenja folk dance and Bhoota Kola troupes, artists and performers in Karnataka to sustain and promote these traditional folk arts; and
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to ensure that these traditional forms receive more national and international exposure and the platforms or events being organized to showcase these dance forms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) The Government of India has set up South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur and South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur to preserve and promote various forms of folk art and culture including traditional art forms of their member States which includes the State of Karnataka. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes for which they engage number of artists and performers from their member States including the State of Karnataka who are expert in traditional folk dances. These artists are paid honorarium, DA/TA, boarding & lodging and local transportation which enable them to earn their livelihood.

In addition, Ministry of Culture has organized 14 Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (National Culture Festivals) across the country where traditional folk artists from all over the country including the State of Karnataka are engaged to showcase various dance forms on a national platform. The second edition of Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav held at Rashtrapati Bhawan from 5th to 9th March, 2025 focusing on the Southern States featured the Bhoota Kola troupes from Karnataka prominently.

Ministry of Culture implements a scheme titled "Global Engagement Scheme" to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner. The objective of the scheme is to provide artists practicing Indian art forms, an opportunity to perform abroad under the banner of 'Festival of India'. Under the scheme, artists from diverse cultural fields such as folk art including Folk Music, Folk Dance, Folk Theatre & Puppetry, Classical and Traditional Dance, Experimental/ Contemporary Dance, Classical/ Semi Classical Music, Theatre etc. perform in the 'Festivals of India' abroad. All expenditure on deputation of these artists for performing abroad is incurred by the Government. Ministry of Culture has empanelled 627 artists/groups from all over India under various art forms and artists are selected from the empanelled list for deputing for performing in the Festivals of India abroad.
