

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3709
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Promotion of the Dashavtar art of Konkan, Maharashtra

3709#. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote Dashavatara, the traditional folk theatre art of Konkan, Maharashtra at the international level under the Global Engagement Scheme;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to include Dashavatara performances in Festival of India programmes and to provide financial assistance to cultural organisations for its promotion; and
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any plan to preserve and promote Dashavatara art through the collaboration with regional cultural centres, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) 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 providing 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. Under the Scheme, all expenditure on deputation of an artist for performing in “Festival of India” is incurred by the Government.

Ministry of Culture has empanelled Artists/Groups under various art forms and Artists are selected from the empanelled list for performing in the Festivals of India abroad. Currently, 627 Artists/Groups are empanelled with the Ministry. Out of these 37 Artists/Groups are

empanelled from Maharashtra in different art forms, which include 04 Folk Artists/Groups. So far 7 artists/troupes have been deputed to perform in the Festivals of India abroad, viz. one each in Oman, Netherlands, Ghana (2016-17), Qatar (2018-19), South Africa (2019-20) and one each in Freedom 70 events held in Venezuela and Vietnam (2017-18).

At National level, to promote Dashavtar art, South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur invited Dashavtar cultural troupes in Lok Natya Samaroh on 18th March 2025 at Amravati, Maharashtra.

West Zonal Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur regularly invites artists relating to Marathi folk theatre 'Dashavtar' in its several fairs and festivals. Recently, WZCC invited Dashavtar artists in the Folk Theatre Festival held in Marc, 2025 at Pune, Maharashtra.
