

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1294
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2025

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOLK AND TRIBAL ARTISTS IN ODISHA

1294 # SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any provisions for providing financial assistance to folk and tribal artists in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred by Government thereon during the last three years;
- (c) the details of beneficiaries, district-wise; and
- (d) the details of steps Government proposes to take to promote the art of the said artists?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Culture runs Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) Scheme under which financial support is provided to folk artists of all genres of performing arts viz. musical groups, dance groups, theatre groups including children theatre, music ensembles etc. Under the scheme, the amount of assistance for Guru (leader of the Group) is Rs. 15,000/- per month and for the Shishya is Rs. 2,000-10,000/- per month depending upon the age of the artist.

Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India also administers 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' scheme with the objective to provide maximum financial assistance upto Rs. 6,000/- p.m. to the old artistes and scholars aged 60 years and above having annual income not exceeding Rs. 72,000/- who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. The financial assistance being provided to the artists under the scheme is not any kind of pension in the conventional sense. Instead, it is meant as a grant in the form of financial assistance provided for improving the financial and socio-economic status of the old artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their active age or are still contributing in the field of arts, letters etc but due to old age are unable to generate a steady income. In the event of death of the beneficiary, the financial assistance is transferred to his/her spouse.

Details of expenditure incurred and number of artists benefitted in the State of Odisha under the scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)	Number of artists benefitted
2022-23	306.77	966
2023-24	1063.40	1460
2024-25	1106.51	1995

Besides, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India administers a scheme viz. “Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields” in which financial assistance is given to young artists (upto 400 scholarships in a batch year) of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music & Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual Art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Music etc. @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years. The scholarship is released in four equal six monthly installments.

The details of funds released and number of beneficiaries benefitted in the State of Odisha under the scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of artists benefitted
2022-23	7.50	25
2023-24	29.10	97
2024-25	21.60	71

(d) To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk/ tribal art and culture throughout the country including the State of Odisha, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States for which they engage folk/ tribal artists from all over India including the State of Odisha who are paid honorarium, TA/DA, local transportation, boarding & lodging etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Besides, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at national level through these ZCCs where a large number of folk/ tribal artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs and four (04) Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture in the country.
