

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST JANUARY, 2018**

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

†2076. **SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA:**
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI NATUBHAI GOMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken measures to promote inter-State cultural development programmes to promote cordial relation among people from different States and different ethnic communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to promote cultural exchange among different States and ethnic communities of the country;
- (c) the details of the various States where such festivals have been organized during the last two years, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) whether the Government has organized the cultural festivals abroad during the said period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which such festivals have been successful in promoting our culture abroad?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE
AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) & (b) The mandate of the Ministry of Culture is to protect, preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country and to meet this objective, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs engage cultural troupes from different States to participate in the major festivals under National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP). Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat (EBSB) matrix, a Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was organized from 7th to 13th October, 2017 in various cities of Gujarat viz. Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Rajkot, Somnath and Dwarka.

(c) These ZCCs organize various cultural festivals and programme on regular basis in all the States/UTs of India including Uttar Pradesh. During the last two years, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs were organized at New Delhi (in 2015 & 2016), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh in 2016), Bengaluru (Karnataka in 2017) and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh in 2017).

(d) & (e) Ministry of Culture organizes Festivals of India abroad to showcase the Indian Culture through activities including classical/folk dance, music, theatre, puppetry, cuisine and literary exchange etc. The number of countries where such festivals have been organized during the last two years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of countries
1.	2016-17	17
2.	2017-18	14