

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018**

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE OLYMPICS

***230: SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's traditional theatre is not getting the recognition and opportunity it deserves, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has inaugurated the 8th International Theatre Olympics, 2018 in New Delhi recently, if so, the details thereof and the theme of the event;
- (c) the number of countries along with the number of participants in the said event;
- (d) the activities/programmes organised during the said event; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to draw international attention towards Indian theatre?

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *230 for 12.03.2018 regarding International Theatre Olympics

- (a): No Sir. Traditional theatre gets recognition and is showcased at the national and international levels through theatre-festivals, Solo shows, theatre workshops and other such events. The National School of Drama (NSD), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture and primarily a theatre training institute imparting training in Dramatic Arts leading to 3 years' Diploma, is mandated to take steps to promote Indian traditional theatre by organising workshops, festivals and other allied activities.

Some of the measures taken by the NSD in this behalf are indicated below:-

- As part of their syllabus/curriculum students are imparted training in traditional theatre genres like the Yakshagana, Chhau, Terukkuttu, Kudiyattam, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Ankia Nat, Sattriya, Parsi, Ankia Baona Nautanki.
- As part of the curriculum, students of the NSD also visit different regions of the country to perform, research and develop theatre forms prevalent in these regions, which are quite diverse in nature. This helps to make people aware of the dramatic art traditions of the area.
- For this purpose, under the Out-reach/Extension Programme, production oriented theatre workshops across the country are conducted in collaboration with the local theatre groups and plays are also performed, as part of these workshops..
- Further, NSD has also opened centres in the North -East at Sikkim and Tripura and in Bengaluru to introduce, encourage, promote and preserve the culture and traditions of the local people.
- Apart from the above, NSD also organizes theatre festivals like Bharat Rang Mahotsav (annually) at Delhi and in few selected cities of the country , in which Theatre groups are encouraged to showcase traditional theatre.
- Bal Sangam (biennially) and Jashne Bachpan (biennially) for children are also organized in Delhi.
- Poorvottar festival is also organized in the North-East region for the purpose of promotion, preservation of the customs, traditions, practices and dramatic arts etc. prevalent in these areas through the medium of Theatre. Plays from other parts of the country are also showcased in this festival.
- Tribal festivals are also organized in various parts of the country from time to time as a regular feature in tribal dominated areas.

Contd.2

- (b): The 8th Theatre Olympics was inaugurated by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President of India on 17th February, 2018 at Red Fort, Delhi. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture (I/C) and Mr.Theodoros Terzopoulos, Chairman, International Committee of Theatre Olympics were the Guests of Honour on this occasion. Mr. Jaroslaw Fret, Executive Member, International Committee of Theatre Olympics, Mr. Jaroslaw Jozef Broda, Head of Culture of Poland, Ms. Nagdalena Marda, artist of Teatr ZAR were Special Guests on this occasion. The inaugural function was followed by Geet Rang- A Collage of Indian Theatre Music.

The 8th Theatre Olympics 2018 is being organized during 17th February to 8th April 2018 in the cities of Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Imphal, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Mumbai, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram and Varanasi. More than 465 performances from India and foreign countries are being showcased during this period. The closing ceremony of the event would be organized on 8th April, 2018 in Mumbai.

The Theme (Motto) of the 8th Theatre Olympics is "Flag of Friendship"

- (c): There are 25 Countries participating in this mega event with about 25000 Theatre Artists.
- (d)&(e): In addition to the performances of over 400 plays from 17th February to 8th April, 2018, the other activities being organized include interfaces with 60 living legends and 50 master classes along with 300 allied programs. 2 International seminars would be held in Delhi and Mumbai with 6 National Seminars hosting National and International scholars across Bhopal, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Varanasi, Jaipur and Chandigarh. India will also exhibit/showcase its age old practices, Customs, and Theatre forms prevalent in different parts of the country through the medium of Theatre.
