

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 332  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018

**PROMOTION OF INDIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURE**

\*332. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote Indian folk arts and culture on a foreign platform;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the incentives being provided to improve the economic conditions of folk artists?

**ANSWER**

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK  
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 19.3.2018 REGARDING  
PROMOTION OF INDIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURE**

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Culture aims at disseminating Indian Folk Arts and Culture abroad through Signing of Cultural Agreements & Cultural Exchange Programme and their implementation by concerned agencies with mutual discussions through diplomatic channels.

Ministry of culture operates Scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations under which Festivals of India are organized showcasing folk art and other cultural events as exhibitions, dance, music, theatre, food fest, literary fest, film fest, yoga etc. Under this scheme, Ministry of culture also gives Grant-in-aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies for organizing programmes & activities including folk art & other cultural activities for their promotion abroad. The signing & implementation of Exchange programme is a continuous process. Organising Festivals of India and supporting Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies abroad is a regular activity of Ministry of culture.

(c): The Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur to protect, preserve & promote various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country. The folk artists from all over India are engaged to perform in the festivals & programmes organized by these ZCCs regularly in all States/Union Territories of India. Besides, the folk artists are also sent abroad to perform in Festivals of India. Incentives like Dearness allowance, honorarium, board & lodging, local & international travel are provided to these artists by the respective ZCC and Ministry of Culture.

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