

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION Q.NO. 263  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

**PENSION SCHEME FOR ARTISTS**

**263. SHRI ANTO ANTONY**

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme called, "Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes' (SPMAA);
- (b) if so, the objectives and salient features of the Scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has any record regarding the number of beneficiaries and the amount distributed under the SPMAA during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/year-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has received any representation regarding the enhancement of the quantum of amount under the SPMAA and if so, the details thereof, and the response of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The Government is implementing a Scheme namely "Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes' (SPMAA). The objectives of this Scheme is to improve financial and socio-economic status of the old aged artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. in their active age or are still contributing in the field of arts, letters etc. but leading a miserable life or are in penury condition. The Scheme has also provision to provide medical aid facility to such Artistes and his/her spouse by covering them under a convenient and affordable Health Insurance Scheme of the Government.

In order to be eligible under this Scheme, personal income of the applicant artiste (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs.4,000/- (Rupees four thousand only) per month or annual income of Rs.48,000/- (Rupees forty eight thousand only) [This excludes artiste pension assistance amount already getting by a beneficiary from the Government (i.e. concerned State Govt./UT Administration and/or Ministry of Culture)]. Also, the applicant artiste should not be less than 60 (sixty) years of age (this does not apply in the case of spouse) and the applicant artiste is getting pension of at least Rs.500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

In the event of death of the beneficiary artiste, the financial assistance is transferred to his/her spouse.

- (c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The year-wise amount distributed under the Scheme is as under:-

Financial Year	Total amount distributed(in crores)	No. of beneficiaries
2014-2015	15.63	2967
2015-2016	13.86	2788
2016-2017	13.17	3376

The State/UT wise details of beneficiaries under SPMAA during the last three years are given at annexure.

- (e) Some representation for enhancement of quantum of amount under the SPMAA has been received in the Ministry but it is not under active consideration of the Government.

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**Annexure to the reply of part (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha  
Unstarred Question No. 263 to be answered on 05.02.2018 on  
Pension Scheme for Artists.**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	304	295	312
2	Assam	28	28	34
3	Bihar	38	38	41
4	Delhi	38	38	42
5	Goa	7	7	8
6	Gujarat	5	5	5
7	Haryana	28	28	28
8	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	6
9	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL	NIL	2
10	Jharkhand	6	6	7
11	Karnataka	613	588	673
12	Kerala	219	212	288
13	Madhya Pradesh	30	30	45
14	Maharashtra	760	684	871
15	Manipur	109	97	117
16	Meghalaya	1	1	1
17	Mizoram	4	4	5
18	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	2
19	Odisha	218	198	241
20	Puducherry	6	6	6
21	Punjab	3	3	7
22	Rajasthan	3	3	14
23	Tamil Nadu	185	165	229
24	Telangana	90	90	103
25	Uttar Pradesh	198	188	201
26	Uttarakhand	8	8	11
27	West Bengal	60	60	77
<b>Total</b>		<b>2967</b>	<b>2788</b>	<b>3376</b>