

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 179
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VETERAN ARTISTS

***179. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide financial assistance to veteran artists of the country and if so, the number of artists receiving the financial assistance and the amount of pension received during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that several veteran artists of the country have not received their monthly pension amounts for the past several months;
- (c) if so, whether the Government will consider expediting the payment of pending pension to all the artists;
- (d) whether the Government has entrusted the Life Insurance Corporation of India to disburse the financial assistance to artists; and
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed its performance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH
EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(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. 179 FOR 19TH DECEMBER, 2022**

(a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' (erstwhile 'Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes') to provide financial assistance to veteran artists of the country of the age of 60 years and above in the form of monthly artists pension. State-wise number of Artists and amount of pension received by them during the last three financial years under the scheme is **Annexed**.

(b) Yes Sir, It has been the endeavor of the Government to make continuous efforts to ensure that pension to the beneficiaries is disbursed in a timely manner. However, the disbursement of financial assistance to the recommended artists is subject to submission of requisite documents by the beneficiaries selected under the Scheme such as Digital Life Certificate, Income Certificates etc. Non-submission of requisite documents from the selected beneficiaries in time, results in delay in disbursal of pension to them.

(c) Once all requisite documents are received from the beneficiaries, all efforts are made to process the disbursement of pension expeditiously. As release of artist pension is an ongoing process, action is being taken continuously to release the pending payments as and when requisite documents are received from the beneficiaries.

(d) Yes Sir. Ministry of Culture has entrusted the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) vide an MoU in 2009 for disbursing the monthly artists pension to selected beneficiaries prior to the year 2017.

(e) The performance of LIC is reviewed from time to time and advisories are issued to them for timely disbursal of artists beneficiaries upon receipt of requisite documents from them and to submit a quarterly report in this regard. To cut down the delay in disbursal of pension to the old artists, release of artists pension to the selected beneficiaries is made by the Ministry itself upon receipt of requisite documents from them from the year 2017-18.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in Reply of Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 179 for 19.12.2022

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	FY-2019-20		FY - 2020-21		FY - 2021-22	
		Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.16	54	5.1	29	72.29	89
2.	Assam	1.92	5	0.96	2	0.48	1
3.	Haryana	0.04	1	-	-	0.93	1
4.	Jharkhand	1.11	8	2.28	8	3.00	5
5.	Karnataka	30.29	102	29.97	144	59.55	146
6.	Kerala	13.34	83	8.18	24	24.49	57
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5.41	16	2.44	6	5.04	12
8.	Maharashtra	85.86	324	106.61	206	190.49	448
9.	Manipur	3.08	13	3.36	9	7.84	16
10.	Nagaland	0.04	1	0.48	1	0.92	2
11.	Odisha	84.04	238	119.46	355	276.95	828
12.	Rajasthan	0.87	5	0.07	2	1.23	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	9.92	36	0.87	6	15.49	22
14.	Telangana	86.18	163	53.2	86	217.29	342
15.	Tripura	0.06	2	0.24	1	0.92	2
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3.2	8	5.12	9	13.08	46
17.	West Bengal	8.26	25	5.09	37	12.31	32
	Total	355.82	1084	343.46	925	902.30	2051
	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India	1461.78	2104	527.85	1075	639.87	978
	G. Total	1817.60	3188	871.31	2000	1542.17	3029
