

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5190**  
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

**PROMOTION OF RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA**

5190. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to promote the rich cultural heritage of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the folk artists of Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government is promoting/proposes to promote the local folk songs and folk dances of Maharashtra across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds spent in this regard during the last three years and the current year?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) To protect, preserve and promote various forms of folk art & rich cultural heritage throughout the country including Maharashtra, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. Each State of India is a member of one or more ZCCs. Maharashtra is the member State of South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur and West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on a regular basis throughout the year in their member States for which they are provided annual grant-in-aid by the Ministry. To encourage folk artists of Maharashtra, SCZCC and WZCC engage them who showcase their talents during these programmes for which they are paid honorarium, DA/TA etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Besides, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) all over India through ZCCs for promotion of rich cultural heritage of the country including Maharashtra. Since 2015, the Ministry has organized 14 RSMs in the country. Recently, Ministry of Culture has organized RSM at Mumbai, Maharashtra from 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 where folk artists of Maharashtra were also invited to perform during the program. To promote the local folk songs and folk dances of Maharashtra across the country, these two ZCCs invite local artists for programmes which are organized as per their calendar of events. Further, regional festivals are also organized by SCZCC and WZCC throughout the year to keep the culture and traditions of the regions alive. Folk and tribal artists are engaged by these ZCCs for stage performances during the RSMs and regional festivals.

SCZCC also organizes workshops and implement Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme to promote folk art, music, dance and literature of Maharashtra. For preservation of folk art, SCZCC also undertakes documentation in print as well as audio and visual media. WZCC invites folk artists for Lavani, Powada, Shongi Mukhote etc. during the programmes organized by them.

(d) No State/UT-wise funds are released by this Ministry. Details of grant-in-aid (including the funds for holding RSMs) released to SCZCC and WZCC during the last three (3) years and the current year are as under:-

<b>(Rs. in lakh)</b>					
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the ZCC</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23 (as on date)</b>
i.	WZCC	923.32	706.60	653.92	1452.49
ii.	SCZCC	1910.95	887.80	778.52	1949.97

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