

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1207
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

ENCOURAGING FOLK ARTISTS IN RAJASTHAN

†1207. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to promote the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage folk artists in the State of Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government is encouraging folk songs and folk dances of Rajasthan across the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the details of the amount spent in this regard during the last three years and the current year;
- (f) whether the folk artists of Churu district in Rajasthan have remained in demand for playing 'Daf', a kind of musical instrument and folk dances in foreign countries and have also visited foreign countries several times; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government proposes to extend financial assistance to them?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) To protect, preserve and promote rich cultural heritage, folk art & culture in the country including Rajasthan, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) in the country with headquarters at Patiala (Punjab), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Kolkata (West Bengal), Dimapur (Nagaland) and Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). Annual grant-in-aid is provided to these ZCCs to organize cultural programmes/activities in their member States on a regular basis throughout the year. Folk artists from all over India are engaged by these ZCCs who showcase their talents during these programmes for which they are paid honorarium, DA/TA, boarding & lodging and local transportation.

Rajasthan is the member State of West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur, North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala and North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Prayagraj. To encourage folk artists in Rajasthan, these ZCCs implement a number of schemes like Award to Young Talented Artists, Guru Shishya Parampara, Theatre Rejuvenation, Shilpgram, OCTAVE and National Cultural Exchange Programme.

(d) & (e) To encourage folk songs and dances of Rajasthan across the country, the Ministry of Culture organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) in various parts of the country including Rajasthan. Since 2015, the Ministry has organized 14 RSMs and three Zonal Level RSMs up till now through its seven ZCCs. A RSM and a Zonal Level RSM were organized at Bikaner and Kota, Rajasthan from 25th February to 5th March, 2023 and on 5th September, 2023 respectively. In addition to this, WZCC also organizes a number of Regional Festivals every year to encourage folk artists, folk songs and folk dances in the State of Rajasthan. Festivals, fairs and regional programmes like Shilpdarshan Mela, Dharohar, Shilpgram Utsav, Tribal Festivals like Baneshwar Mela, Vagad Mahotsav, Ghotia Amba Mela, Bheru Ji Mela, Lokrang, Workshops, Exhibitions, Seminars etc. are organized by WZCC in this regard. Details of expenditure incurred by WZCC on these programmes during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
1.	2020-21	1.89
2.	2021-22	3.25
3.	2022-23	14.05
4.	2023-24 (as on date)	3.22

(f) & (g) In order to make the world aware of India's rich cultural heritage, Ministry of Culture implements a scheme titled "Global Engagement Scheme" to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner. The objective of the scheme is to provide an opportunity to artists practicing Indian art forms to perform abroad under the banner of 'Festival of India'. Under this scheme, artists from diverse cultural fields and experts in various art forms like folk music, folk dance, folk theatre, puppetry, classical & traditional dance, experimental/ contemporary dance, classical/ semi-classical music, theatre etc. perform in the 'Festival of India' abroad. In this regard, entire expenditure on deputation of an artist for performing in "Festival of India" abroad is incurred by the Government.

Ministry of Culture has empanelled artists/groups under various art forms and artists are selected from this empanelled list for performing in the Festivals of India abroad. Currently, fifteen (15) artists/groups, including seven (7) folk artists/groups, from Rajasthan, are empanelled with Ministry of Culture. No artist from Churu district of Rajasthan is empanelled with this Ministry. So far, three (3) folk troupes from Rajasthan have participated in 'Festivals of India' held in three (3) countries, namely Senegal (2016-17), Qatar (2018-19) and Kuwait (2022-23).