

GOVT. OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3127
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021

SETTING UP OF CULTURAL MUSEUM IN NORTH BENGAL

3127. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government taking into cognizance the rich cultural diversity of the North Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduars, Cooch Behar and adjoining areas;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a cultural museum in the region to promote and preserve the local indigenous culture and traditions;
- (c) the details of assistance provided to Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts under various schemes of the ministry; and
- (d) the action taken/proposes to be taken by the Government to maintain and preserve important historical monuments like Damsang Gadi fort at Kalimpong, St.Andrews Church in Darjeeling, Old Monastery at Ghoomand Bhutia Busty?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM
(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

- (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Culture is aware of the cultural diversity of the districts of North Bengal and has worked with the Mech, Rabha, Rajbanshi and Nepali communities (along with many sub-castes) residing in the region. At the recently organized Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) in Cooch Behar and Darjeeling from 14th to 28th February, 2021, all the artists belonging to local communities were given a chance to perform on the national stage'.
- (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government to set up a cultural museum in the region.
- (c) Details are at Annexure.
- (d) ASI develops and maintains only Archaeological Site Museums and not Cultural Museum. There is Cooch Behar Palace Museum in district Cooch Behar which is maintained by Raniganj Circle, ASI.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (c) OF LSUSQ NO. 3127 FOR 15.03.2021 REGARDING 'SETTING UP OF CULTURAL MUSEUM IN NORTH BENGAL'

1. CULTURAL FUNCTION & PRODUCTION GRANT (CFPG)

(₹ in lakh)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Organization Name	Sanction Amount
(i)	2018-19	Hill Social Welfare Society, Kalimpong, W.B.-734301	1.00
(ii)	2018-19	Siliguri Writtick Natya Sanstha, Darjeeling, W.B.-734006	2.50

2. REPERTORY GRANT

(₹ in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Organization Name	Sanction Amount
(i)	2017-18	Siliguri Writtick Natya Sanstha,	8.40
(ii)	2018-19	C/o Kushal Bose, 'Basusree', Bharatnagar, SMC - 24, P.O. :	8.40
(iii)	2019-20	Rabindra Sarani, Dist:- Darjeeling, P.S. : Siliguri, Kolkata,	8.40
(iv)	2020-21	West Bengal 734006.	8.40

3. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MUSEUMS (NCSM) : NCSM set up Various Science Centres/Museums under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS). NCSM has set up Science centre/Museums at the following places:-

- (i) **Darjeeling:** North Bengal Science Centre, Siliguri situated in Darjeeling district, was set up by NCSM (date of Inauguration: August 17, 1997) and is operated and managed by NCSM. An Innovation Hub was set up by NCSM under SPoCS scheme at NBSC, Siliguri in 2018.
- (ii) **Kalimpong:** A Sub-Regional Science Centre in the Kalimpong town (which is close to both Darjeeling and Siliguri and was earlier a part of Darjeeling district, but now a separate district itself) was set up by NCSM under Science Cities scheme approved by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. The Centre was handed over to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (under Govt. of West Bengal). The Kalimpong Science Centre was inaugurated on October 2, 2008. An Innovation Hub was set up by NCSM under SPoCS scheme at SRSC, Kalimpong in 2017.
