

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2021**

**CULTURAL PROGRAMMES FOR PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
ARTS AND CULTURE**

†4197. SHRI ARUN SAO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducts cultural programmes in various cities and small towns of the country for the promotion and development of arts and culture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated/released to States/ Union territories including Chhattisgarh for organising these programmes during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether these programmes were appreciated a lot by the audience; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a) & (b) To protect, promote and preserve and for development of various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in various cities and small towns of the country throughout the year. Besides, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) are also conducted through these ZCCs where a large number of artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, eleven (11) RSMs at 20 places have been organized by Ministry of Culture up till now in the country. These ZCCs also organize minimum 42 Regional Festivals for promotion of culture every year as per their programme calendar.

(c) No State/UT wise funds are released by Ministry of Culture for organizing these programmes. However, Ministry of Culture releases annual grant-in-aid to these seven ZCCs for organizing cultural programmes all over India including Chhattisgarh. The details of grant-in-aid released to the seven ZCCs during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2017-18	4689.71
2018-19	5952.69
2019-20	5732.95
2020-21 (as on date)	4009.38

(d) & (e) The cultural activities/ programmes including RSMs and Regional Festivals etc are being organized with an objective to preserve, promote and popularize the heritage of Indian spirit, to re-connect the new generation with our culture and to showcase the country and the world our soft power of unity in diversity. A large number of artists from all over the country showcase their talents in such programmes. School and college students participate in many such programmes and also work as volunteers. These programmes are much appreciated by the masses and experience huge footfall during these cultural programmes organized throughout the country which make them aware about the various art forms and cultural values of India including its vast ancient culture.