

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*288  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021**

**SETTING UP OF CULTURAL MUSEUM IN NORTH BENGAL**

**\* 288. SHRI RAJU BISTA :**

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Ministry taking into cognizance the rich cultural diversity of the North Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar and adjoining areas, proposes to set up a cultural museum in the region to promote and preserve the local indigenous culture and traditions; and
- (b) the details of assistance provided for Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts under various schemes of the Ministry during each of the last five years?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN  
REGION**

**(G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) to (b): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \* 288 FOR REPLY ON 09.08.2021**

- (a) Ministry of Culture operates a 'Museum Grant Scheme' for preservation and protection of art and culture by providing financial assistance to State Governments/Voluntary Bodies/Societies/Trusts for setting up of museums. At present, Ministry of Culture has not received any proposal for setting up a cultural museum in North Bengal region.

However, taking into cognizance the rich cultural diversity of this region, Ministry of Culture has already set up the following Museums/Science Centres:-

- i. Cooch Behar Palace Museum - Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under Ministry of Culture is maintaining and managing this museum in Cooch Behar. The museum displays artifacts of 17th-18th century related to the Cooch dynasty.
- ii. North Bengal Science Centre(NBSC), Siliguri in Darjeeling district under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS).
- iii. Sub-Regional Science Centre in Kalimpong district under SPoCS.
- iv. Innovation hubs were also set up in NBSC, Siliguri and in Sub-Regional Science Centre, Kalimpong.

Besides, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre(EZCC), Kolkata under this Ministry has been engaged in promoting and preserving rural, folk and tribal culture of West Bengal. For this purpose, EZCC has been organizing a series of folk and tribal festivals. Most of the art forms of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar and adjoining areas have been showcased by EZCC in its different programs.

- (b) The details of financial assistance provided for Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts under various schemes of the Ministry during each of the last five years are as under:-

**Darjeeling**

(in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	Year				
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and Art	106.00	45.02	28.00	55.00	-
2	Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture (Repertory Grant Component)	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40
3	Cultural Function & Production Grant Scheme	-	-	-	2.50	-
4	Scheme of Scholarship and Fellowship for Promotion of Art and Culture	-	0.30	0.30	-	0.90
5	Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS)	210.21	299.18	217.10	220.16	172.78

**Kalimpong**

(in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	Year				
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and Art	-	-	2.50	3.86	-
2	Cultural Function & Production Grant	-	-	1.00	-	-
3	Scheme of Scholarship and Fellowship for Promotion of Art and Culture	0.30	-	0.30	-	-
4	Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS)	59.21	3.54	29.96	7.50	7.50

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