

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1297
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2022**

SUPPORT TO FOLK ART AND ARTISTS AFTER PANDEMIC

**1297. SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:
DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to support folk art and artist during the last two years especially in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether the Government has provided any monthly assistance for sustenance of such artists;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of number of folk artists covered under the schemes of the Ministry specifically from the State of Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(a) To protect, promote & support folk art and artists, the Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs). To improve the financial condition of folk artists during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Culture took many initiatives through these ZCCs to help them. A statement indicating steps taken by the Ministry in this regard is placed at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) Annual grant-in-aid is released to these ZCCs for conducting various cultural activities/ programmes on regular basis in their member States. Folk artists who are engaged by ZCCs for these programmes are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding & lodging and local transportation by them for showcasing their talents during the events. Details of grant-in-aid released to these ZCCs during the last two years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2020-21	4009.38
2.	2021-22	5881.46

(d) Ministry of Culture administers various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to individual artists including folk artists and also through organizations. The details of number of individual artists including folk artists and organizations who have received financial assistance under the said schemes during the last 2 years are given as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	No. of individual artists including folk artists and organizations
i.	2020-21	5619
ii.	2021-22	6399

As regard the State of Andhra Pradesh, the number of artists including folk artists and organizations who have received financial assistance under the said schemes during the last 2 years is given as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	No. of individual artists including folk artists and organizations
i.	2020-21	101
ii.	2021-22	177

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 1297 for 25.07.2022**

Steps taken to help the artists during COVID Pandemic

- In view of the Pandemic, the Ministry of Culture issued guidelines in October, 2020 to help artists/organizations who had already been sanctioned grant under various scheme components of 'Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)' to conduct events on virtual mode. This enabled them to avail benefits under these schemes even if they were not able to stage programs in the physical format as before and ensured continued financial assistance to tide over the present crisis.
- All efforts were made to release the funds to already approved grantees under various financial schemes of the Ministry of Culture. The funds released during the first quarter of F.Y. 2020-21 was much more than that released during 1st quarter of FY 2019-2020.
- In view of COVID-19, under the scheme of Repertory Grant, exemption was granted to organizations from mandatory inspection for release of yearly grant.
- All help was extended to the grantees for completing various procedural formalities like compliance of mandatory EAT Module. In respect of the scheme component of Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG), one-time exemption was granted to the organizations from filing the expenditure in EAT module for release of 1st instalment to the grantees of 43rd and previous meetings of CFPGS.
- In view of COVID-19, under the Scheme of Scholarship & Fellowship for Promotion of Art & Culture, selection of Senior Fellows for the Batch Year 2019-20 & mid-term and final evaluation of 06 monthly reports of earlier batches (upto Batch Year 2017-18) in respect of both Junior/Senior Fellows was held through virtual mode in view of the large number of members of the Expert Committee.
- Under the scheme of 'Artists Pension' one time exemption was granted regarding submission of the mandatory annual income certificate by the pensioners.
- All the ZCCs encouraged the folk artists to get registered with their member States in order to avail the schemes announced by the States.
- During the Pandemic, the ZCCs organised 881 virtual programs which benefitted 22,070 artists & Rs 2.82 crores were distributed as honorarium.
- South Zone Cultural centre (SZCC), Thanjavur in association with a Chennai based NGO Samarpana organized an online fund raising programme "Notes of Nector-100 for 1000" participated by eminent artists from North and South. This fund raiser initiative enabled 1200 families of folk artists to get financial assistance, groceries etc. during Covid-19 pandemic.

- All ZCCs took care of artistes admitted to hospitals/nursing homes and held consultations with doctors to ensure the best treatment for them. Vaccination Camps in collaboration with a multispecialty hospital in Kolkata was arranged by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata through CSR fund for their artistes. Emergency lifesaving medicines/injections required by some of the artists admitted in the hospital were arranged by ZCCs through Health Department of the State Governments.
- North Eastern Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) organised virtual programmes with 7500 artists in 2020-21 to whom Rs. 70.00 lakh was paid as honorarium. In 2021-22, 1600 artists were benefitted and were an amount of Rs. 15.00 lakh and also expanded Guru Shisya Parampara to include 44 Gurus.
- Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata supported around 12000 artists through online programmes and organized production oriented workshops for craftsmen at Shilpgram, Santiniketan to help them financially.
- All the ZCCs organized online programmes and documented performances of the artists and broadcasted the same on various social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube. The artists were paid remuneration for their online performances.
- Efforts were made to engage artists during Commemoration events enabling them to avail financial benefits out of the grants released by the Ministry.