

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH JULY, 2022**

**PROJECTS FOR PRESERVATION OF ART, CULTURE AND CRAFTS IN
WEST BENGAL**

165. SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the people are getting less inclined towards art, culture and crafts due to the development of information technology and its utilization in daily life in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the projects being run by the Government for the preservation and development of art, culture and crafts in the West Bengal especially in Southern Part including Bankura Bishnupur, Purulia at present; and
- (d) the funds provided by the Government for the said projects in this regard during the last three years?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No such formal study has been conducted in this regard.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) For preservation and development of art, culture and crafts in West Bengal, the Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) at Kolkata. Various cultural activities and programmes are organized by EZCC on regular basis for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them by this Ministry.

To make the younger generation aware about the cultural heritage and values of Indian Culture and to ensure the preservation and development of art culture and crafts, the following programmes/ activities have been undertaken by the Ministry of Culture through its Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs):

- i. A Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) was organized at three places in West Bengal (Cooch Behar, Darjeeling and Murshidabad) during February, 2021 where artists from all over India were engaged to showcase their talents during the Mahotsav.
- ii. A folk festival and a village folk fair were organized at Bankura during 2018, 2019 & 2021.
- iii. Workshops on Jhumar were organized in South Bankura during 2021.
- iv. Workshop on folk songs was organized at Bankura during 2018.
- v. Srijan Utsav was organized at Purulia during 2019 for development of art, culture and crafts.

(d) Regular annual grant-in-aid is provided to the Zonal Cultural Centres for organizing various programmes and activities for preservation and development of art, culture and crafts. West Bengal is a member State of EZCC. The details of grant-in-aid released to EZCC for the purpose including the programmes mentioned in part (c) above, during the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2019-20	870.32
2.	2020-21	946.50
3.	2021-22	1057.19