

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *13
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

ELDERLY ARTISTS PENSION SCHEME

***13. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the criteria/parameters for giving pension to veteran/elderly artist in the country;
- (b) the number of proposals received by the Government under the Elderly Artists Pension scheme during the last five years State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;
- (c) the details of applications received from Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) the number of applications approved and the number of applications withheld during the last ten years along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of special efforts made by the Government to help the elderly artists in earning their livelihood under the said scheme?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA
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(a) The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' under which maximum financial assistance of Rs. 6000/- per month is provided to veteran artists. However, the financial assistance being provided to the artists under the scheme is not any kind of pension in the conventional sense governed by CCS (pension) rules. Instead, it is meant as a grant in the form of financial assistance provided for improving the financial and socio-economic status of the old artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their active age or are still contributing in the field of arts, letters etc. but due to old age are unable to generate a steady income.

Under the Scheme, the following two types of cases/requests are covered:

- i. Existing beneficiaries getting monthly artistes pension under the 1961 Scheme of 'Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances' as amended from time to time; and
- ii. Fresh cases of artistes, writers, etc. who are eligible for a grant/monthly financial assistance under the extant guidelines of the Scheme.

The scheme guidelines provide for the following eligibility criteria for consideration of financial assistance to the applicant under the scheme:

- i. Traditional scholars who have made significant contribution to art & letters, etc. in their fields
- ii. Personal annual income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs. 72,000/-
- iii. The applicant artist should not be less than 60years of age (this doesn't applicable for the spouse of the artists)
- iv. The applicant artist should be a recipient of artists pension of at least Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration, or the artistic credentials of the applicant is verified and recommended by the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture.
- v. The applicant artist should not be getting financial assistance under any other scheme of the Ministry of Culture.

(b) The number of proposals received (state-wise) by the Government under the scheme for 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' during the last five years from various States of the country including the State of Maharashtra is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) Parliamentary Constituency-wise data is not maintained in the Ministry. However, the number of applications received from Parbhani District of the State of Maharashtra and action taken thereon during last five years is given below:

Year	Proposals Received	Proposals not found complete in the preliminary scrutiny	Proposals found complete in the preliminary scrutiny and placed before Expert Committee	Proposals recommended by Expert Committee	Proposals not-recommended by Expert Committee
2019-20	05	00	05	01	04
2020-21	12	00	12	08	04
2021-22	42	19	23	18	05
2022-23	91	32	59	17	42
2023-24	96	51	45	08	37
TOTAL	246	102	144	52	92

(d) The number of applications (year-wise) approved and rejected from 2014-15 to 2023-24 is given below:

Year	Application approved	Application rejected
2014-15	184	1434
2015-16*	1625	1449
2016-17*		
2017-18*		
2018-19	93	211
2019-20	411	797
2020-21	1821	782
2021-22	2251	486
2022-23	1150	2052
2023-24	355	1513
TOTAL	7890	8724

* Meeting of Expert Committee for 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 held in August, 2017.

The applications were not-recommended/approved, inter-alia, owing to various reasons as mentioned below:

- (i) The applications found incomplete owing to deficient documents such as annual income certificate, age certificate, state-share pension proof etc.
- (ii) Not meeting the artistic credentials required as per the scheme guidelines.
- (iii) The applications submitted without the recommendations of prescribed authority as laid down in the scheme guidelines.

(e) While, it has been the constant endeavor of the Government to make efforts to help the veteran artists to receive financial assistance under the scheme, the following actions have been taken during the last few years to mitigate the hardships of the beneficiaries under the scheme:

- (i) The quantum of financial assistance under the scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 4000/- per month to Rs. 6000/- per month with effect from June, 2022;
- (ii) The requirement of submitting income certificate every year has now been done away with and instead it is now required to be submitted once in five years;
- (iii) Earlier, the applicant artist applying under the scheme should have been mandatorily be a recipient of artists pension of at least Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government/UT Administration. This condition has been relaxed and now also provides for verification and recommendation of the artistic credentials by the concerned Zonal Cultural Centre (ZCC), Ministry of Culture in case the applicant is not a recipient of artists pension from the State Govt./UT Administration;
- (iv) To ensure smooth and timely disbursement of financial assistance to the selected artists, an MoU has been signed with Canara Bank on 28.06.2023.

Annexure-I

**Annexure referred to in Reply of Part (b) of the Starred Question No. *13 for 22.07.2024
in Lok Sabha**

Sr.	Name of the State/UT	Proposals received in 2019-20	Proposals received in 2020-21	Proposals received in 2021-22	Proposals received in 2022-23	Proposals received in 2023-24	Total Proposals received from 2019-20 to 2023-24
1.	Andhra Pradesh	177	52	229	213	291	962
2.	Assam	12	3	4	2	0	21
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	36	0	36
4.	Delhi	1	0	1	0	3	5
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	507	507
6.	Gujarat	1	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	2	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	4	3	1	2	10
9.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	1	0	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	1
11.	Karnataka	344	136	201	177	250	1108
12.	Kerala	45	22	28	77	14	186
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8	3	2	2	2	17
14.	Maharashtra	885	238	1446	1157	1469	5195
15.	Manipur	28	12	0	3	1	44
16.	Nagaland	859	1	198	0	0	1058
17.	Odisha	567	584	2693	2124	1136	7104
18.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	1	1
19.	Punjab	7	0	0	0	1	8
20.	Rajasthan	2	2	5	1	1	11
21.	Tamil Nadu	79	66	31	23	15	214
22.	Telangana	528	142	498	859	483	2510
23.	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	1
24.	UttarPradesh	16	68	9	15	38	146
25.	Uttarakhand	0	1	0	0	1	2
26.	West Bengal	2243	1269	54	26	53	3645
Total		5804	2603	5402	4717	4270	22796
