

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *88
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

LALIT KALA ACADEMY

*88 Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to establish more regional centres of Lalit Kala Academy, given that currently there are only six such centres across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the other efforts undertaken to promote regional tribal culture, art and literature across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) To (c): The statement is laid at the table of the house.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 88 FOR 29.07.2024.**

(a) & (b) : The Lalit Kala Akademi has established regional centres in Chennai, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, and Garhi, which have been operational for more than three decades. Additionally, studio and gallery spaces are functional in Agartala, Ahmedabad, and Shimla. The Government of Karnataka has allocated land for a new regional centre in Dharwad, foundation stone for which was laid in February 2023.

At present, there are no plans to establish additional regional centres as Lalit Kala Akademi has been working in close co-ordination with many state governments and state academies to organize more exhibitions and workshops.

(c) : The Ministry of Culture, through its Zonal Cultural Centres and autonomous bodies such as Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, and various Central Sector Schemes, has undertaken comprehensive measures to promote tribal culture, art, and literature across the country.

Key initiatives include:

(i) The Ministry allocates 4.3 percent of its total Central Sector Scheme allocation annually for the promotion of tribal art, literature, and culture.

(ii) Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) have been established with the mandate to protect and promote the folk art and culture of the country. Seven ZCCs are strategically located to cover the entire nation. These centres organize Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs), where numerous folk artists participate to showcase their talents. Aadi Mahotsavs, organized in association with TRIFED, and independently conducted Aadi Parvs (tribal fairs) in member states, further promote tribal culture. The OCTAVE festival of the North East, organized by all seven ZCCs, provides a dedicated platform for artists and artisans from the North East Region to showcase and propagate their rich cultural heritage.

(iii) The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has established a Regional Centre in Ranchi to study, preserve, conserve, and disseminate knowledge of the rich cultural heritage and arts of the tribes of Eastern India, particularly Jharkhand. This centre offers a platform for tribal and traditional artisans to promote their work and skills through various workshops and training programmes.

(iv) Sahitya Akademi conducts seminars, symposia, and events, both online and offline, focused on tribal literature across the nation. These programmes have been held at regional and national levels, resulting in significant publications. The Akademi has also established the North East Centre for Oral Literature (NECOL) in Agartala to cater exclusively to regional languages, organizing related activities and producing publications. Languages supported include Mizo, Ao, Garo, Chakma, Rabha, Karbi, Hmar, Lepcha, Khasi, Tangkhul, Missing, Tenydie, Kokborok, Jaintia, Tulu, Gojri, and Ho. The Sahitya Akademi also hosts the Tribal Writers' Meet during its Annual Festival of Letters, involving the participation of 40-50 tribal writers.

(v) The Lalit Kala Akademi has organized numerous art workshops, camps, and conclaves nationwide, providing platforms for tribal artists to showcase their talent. Significant projects include the "Jan Janani Janambhumi" art workshop for the New Parliament Building's People's Wall, featuring over 75 women artists from various tribal backgrounds. The Akademi also contributed to the beautification of several cities, like

Delhi for the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee by engaging tribal and folk artists. Regional centres in Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, and Kolkata have conducted numerous tribal art camps and workshops, promoting tribal art forms such as Phad, Madhubani, Gond, Saura, Pithora, Warli, and others.

(vi) The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) organizes various training programmes to raise awareness about Indian culture, including tribal culture, in schools nationwide. Teachers from all regions, including rural and tribal areas, participate in CCRT training programmes, which have grassroots impacts. These programmes encourage teachers to promote their regional culture, including tribal art and culture, through sessions on regional presentation.

(vii) The Sangeet Natak Akademi, runs the "Training and Preservation of Traditional, Folk & Tribal Performing Arts" scheme, which supports training, performances, workshops, and exhibitions of musical instruments and crafts associated with traditional performing arts. The scheme emphasizes the Guru-Shishya Parampara (mentor-disciple tradition) and supports short-term intensive training programmes. The Akademi also organizes 'Desaj' festivals across different regions to promote folk and tribal music, dance, and theatre.

November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda has been declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate the special contribution of tribals towards India's freedom. During the AKAM campaign the largest Tribal Folk festival "Utkarsh" and Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav were conducted in Bhopal and Bhubaneswar respectively in 2023.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, as the nodal ministry for the welfare and development of tribal people, implements various measures to conserve and protect tribal culture, traditions, and customs. These measures include setting up Tribal Research Institutes in states, establishing ethnographic and tribal freedom fighter museums, organizing national and state-level festivals and artisan melas, conducting research studies and publications, including audio-visual documentaries, building the capacity of tribal persons and institutions, and disseminating information and creating awareness.
