

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *92
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024**

WELFARE OF VETERAN ARTISTS

***92. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:**

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the challenges that veteran artists face in maintaining stable incomes and career longevity;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure adequate welfare support;
- (c) whether the Government plans to implement a new free health insurance scheme for the veteran artists, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government plans to increase the pension amount, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the number of veteran pension applications received from Kasargod Lok Sabha Constituency of Kerala State during the last five financial years; and
- (f) the details of the number of approved veteran pension applications during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) of LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *92 FOR 02nd December, 2024**

(a) The Ministry of Culture administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' in its various forms with the objective to support old and poor artists aged 60 years and above who have contributed significantly in the field of art, culture and letters in their active age or are still contributing. Financial assistance under this scheme is provided @ Rs. 6000/- per month to the selected artists of all States/UTs. However, artist pension, if any, received by the selected artists from their respective State Government/UT Administration, is deducted before release of the assistance to such artists.

(b) 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 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 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.

(c) No, there is no such proposal under consideration in this Ministry.

(d) The scheme was last reviewed in 2022 and monthly financial assistance under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 6000/- from 1st June, 2022.

(e) Under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists, 244 applications were received from Kasargod District of Kerala during last five years. However, the constituency-wise information is not maintained in the Ministry.

(f) The number of applications approved under the scheme during last five years are follow:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Application approved
1.	2019-20	411
2.	2020-21	1821
3.	2021-22	2251
4.	2022-23	1150
5.	2023-24	355
